

DATE: April 4, 2017
TO: House Revenue Committee
FROM: Stacy Michaelson, Association of Oregon Counties
SUBJECT: HB 2939

Chair Barnhart, Members of the Committee:

For the record, I'm Stacy Michaelson, Policy Manager with the Association of Oregon Counties. I'm here today to speak in opposition to HB 2939.

Recognizing that our housing crisis is a statewide issue, AOC was supportive of HB 1533 in 2016. It is a tenet of AOC to support local control and the ability of our judges and commissioners to enact policy at the local level that is responsive to the needs of their community. It was in this vein that we supported HB 1533, as it gave our members multiple options to address their local housing needs.

The current bill, HB 2939, rolls back this progress by adding a new limitation on the ability of cities and counties to collect revenue in support of their efforts around affordable housing. HB 1533 was an important tool added to the tool box, and we do have counties currently considering enacting a construction excise tax. However, their calculations and considerations have been based on the current language in HB 1533 and this bill could alter their potential revenue collection.

There was much discussion over HB 1533 in the previous session, and a lot of folks put a lot of time into getting a workable bill that addressed concerns from multiple perspectives. I urge you to let the language of that bill stand and to oppose the proposed changes to the construction excise tax contained in HB 2939.

Thank you.