



COALITION OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS

May 11, 2017

Chair Barnhart and Members of the House Revenue Committee:

The Coalition of Local Health Officials, representing the 34 local public health departments in Oregon, strongly urges you to support HB 2056 with the- 2 amendment, which would remove the preemption on local governments to raise taxes on cigarette and tobacco products.

Oregon's local public health departments are charged with protecting the public's health and preventing the spread of disease in local communities throughout Oregon. Tobacco prevention is an essential component of protecting the health of the community, as it is still the leading cause of preventable death in Oregon.

Local public health departments work with local communities to prevent youth from smoking and support adults who want to quit. Raising the price of tobacco and other tobacco products is an important tool to reduce youth initiative of tobacco. According to the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, "every 10 percent increase in cigarette prices reduces youth smoking by about seven percent and total cigarette consumption by about four percent."¹ However, Boards of County Commissioners and local health departments currently lack ability to implement one of the best evidence-based tools for preventing youth from smoking in the first place, which is raising the price.

Oregon should provide cities, counties and the state every opportunity to raise the price of tobacco products in an effort to reduce youth initiative of tobacco.

The Coalition of Local Health Officials urges you to support this important bill.

Thank you,

Morgan D. Cowling, MPA
Executive Director
Coalition of Local Health Officials



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

¹ http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/what_we_do/state_local/taxes/

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