

To: Joint Committee on Tax Reform  
Date: June 13, 2017  
From: Amy Kessler, Bus Project  
Regarding: House Bill 2830

Co-Chairs Hass and Barnhart, members of the committee:

My name is Amy Kessler, I live in Portland, and I am writing both as a concerned citizen and as the Leadership Development Coordinator of the Oregon Bus Project, a nonprofit that engages the rising electorate in the political process. I care deeply about our schools and I am concerned that without significant revenue reform, we are going to have to make cuts to schools. For our students and young people, cuts would be devastating. When we make cuts to education, our state and our economy suffer. I hope you will put kids ahead of corporations.

We can't keep piecing together budgets like this. We need a revenue package that is significant and reverses decades of disinvestment in our schools and services. I am urging you not just to raise new revenue, but to raise game-changing revenue that makes a significant difference.

The bill you are considering almost gets us there, and I am supportive of the direction we are going, but Oregon's youth deserve far more and I hope the legislature will pass a tax increase that will make a meaningful difference in our state.

Our friends, families, and students are counting on you. Thank you for your time.

Amy Kessler  
Leadership Development Coordinator  
Bus Project