

TO: Joint Committee on Tax Reform

DA: June 13, 2017

Re: House Bill 2830



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

My name is Courtney Graham and I am here today on behalf of the Oregon Bus Project. Our mission is to make politics accessible for young people through mobilization, empowerment and building community, all while making Oregon a better place for everyone.

I am here today because the Bus Project is encouraged by the progress that has been made this session toward crafting a solution to Oregon's long-term revenue problem, represented by House Bill 2830-2. We appreciate all of the hard work that has been done, and recognize the leaders who have gotten us to this point - particularly Speaker Kotek and Senator Hass.

However, we do still have concerns that even with this plan, there will be Oregonians left behind as agencies are forced to make cuts. Our mission is to motivate and support young people to be involved in the democratic process; their ability to do so is affected by their own stability and economic security.

The students and young people we work with have grown up in a generation that knows no better than a crowded classroom or shorter school year. They've grown up experiencing housing instability and food insecurity. We can do better as a state, and we could take a serious step forward if Oregon's budget were more stable, and our system more equitable.

We believe Oregon needs a revenue solution that accomplishes three things: makes our budget more stable now and in the future; raises sufficient revenue to allow us to fix the current budget deficit and also to make additional investments in critical programs; and demonstrates our pioneering spirit by crafting a uniquely Oregon solution. We believe this legislature has the power to do it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Courtney Graham
On behalf of
The Oregon Bus Project