



JAY BOZIEVICH

Lane County Commissioner
West Lane District
jay.bozievich@co.lane.or.us

DATE: February 6, 2017
TO: Senate Committee on Health Care
RE: SB 235, relating to public health

Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee:

Lane County is in support of a statewide framework to license those retailers who sell tobacco products, as outlined within SB 235. As you are aware, this measure builds on several previous proposals to create such a framework. You may also know that Lane County, acting within its designation as the Board of Health passed a somewhat similar licensing framework on December 16, 2014, but that is limited to unincorporated Lane County only. This work was initiated in 2013, as part of the development of Lane County's first Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Reducing tobacco use was identified as a strategic goal in the 2013 CHIP in acknowledgement of its severe negative health impacts, including among youth. Strong local retailer licensing laws have been effective in other communities in reducing youth access to tobacco products.

Throughout our Board's process, members talked about the strong preference for a single, statewide approach to licensing. In Lane County, several cities have their own licensing process, and some do not have any process at all. This patchwork approach makes it challenging to effectively control and enforce access to tobacco products in our community. With respect to SB 235, we are looking forward to a state overlay that will provide for all retailers within Oregon requiring to be licensed by the Department of Revenue (DOR).

In particular, we are in support of:

- Section 5, allowing application for licensure information to be shared with the local public health authority.
- Section 7, which recognizes the presence of a local ordinance, and includes violation of a local ordinance as grounds for enforcement by the state agency (with sidebars).
- Section 12, allowing the DOR to collect any local fees established via local ordinance.
- Section 17, recognizing the authority of the local public health authority.

The structure of this bill creates a very workable partnership between state of Oregon agencies and counties, and will make it more difficult for retailers to sell tobacco products to minors. This is a proven way to ultimately diminish the number of Oregon residents addicted to nicotine.

I urge the Committee to schedule a work session for SB 235 and to make a DO PASS recommendation to move this measure to the floor of the House.

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY