

February 25, 2019

Chair Nathanson
Vice Chairs Findley and Marsh, and
Members of the House Committee on Revenue

HB 2168 and HB 2684

The Association of Oregon Counties supports the repeal of the gigabit property tax exemption.

The exemption has not resulted in the investments or economic development that were anticipated when it was designed, and technology has evolved past the point where the exemption is relevant.

The exemption was written largely to entice Google Fiber to come to the Portland metro area but is no longer relevant as the company elected not to provide gigabit services to that market. While AOC supports broadband expansion throughout the state, any incentive to be successful, must entice expansion that would not have occurred but for the incentive.

Continuing the current gigabit incentive has the potential to continue to cost counties considerable property tax revenues without significant benefits.

Sincerely,



Susan Morgan
Association of Oregon Counties