



## **Taxpayers Association of Oregon**

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P.O. Box 23573, Tigard, OR 97281

TO: Senate Business and General Government Committee

FROM: Taxpayers Association of Oregon, Tootie Smith

RE: SB 300

Date: March 5, 2019

Representing Taxpayer's Association of Oregon, I'm Tootie Smith, county commissioner, retired, in opposition to SB 300 as it would increase taxes.

Oregon currently ranks as tenth highest in all state taxes, per capita in the United States. Oregon ranks 5<sup>th</sup> overall in state spending.

SB300 would impose a new 4 % "surcharge" on wireless consumers and an additional 4% on land lines to service providers in Oregon. These service providers would then pass the tax onto consumers. Some estimates state in excess of \$45 million in new surcharges on consumers. An Oregon family with a family share plan with 4 wireless lines would pay in excess of \$50 per year.

As the homeless crisis continues unabated, taxing the poor who don't have homes or cars is just bad. Their cell phones are their only means of communication and an additional tax will make it harder for Oregon's poorest people.

This tax is unfair as it taxes a majority of all cell phone users for no apparent benefit to the one paying the tax. As other committees in this 2019 legislature ponder increased taxes proposals, it is paramount that discretion be used in not implementing this tax. Please reconsider that the overall tax burdens as a majority of taxpayers will pay to benefit a few.

Thank you  
Tootie Smith