



Dear Chair Nancy Nathanson, and members of the House Committee on Revenue

HB 2122 defines groceries and retailers for tax purposes.

We are strongly opposed to opening groceries up to taxation and believe it's an assault on all peoples.

It's rather presumptuous to assume that people support a food tax just because Measure 103 didn't pass. As with a lot of ballot measures, misinformation went wild. The central idea - that life necessities as food and medicine should remain tax-free. But, as the Oregonian pointed out, they reported many unintended consequences that deserved a no vote. They said, "the initiative goes far beyond just food purchased at a local grocery store - it bars taxes on the sales, distribution or transfer of raw and processed food at all stages." It would protect big wealthy cooperatives because it is overly vague, leaving open to legal interpretation just how broadly a ban could apply.

I mention all this because HB 2122 hits on the very thing that people would have voted to prohibit tax on – the end product of the food process. Further, to tax food banks is taxing our donations and making money off of our generosity. To tax farmers' produce stands will cost programs that feed low-income and seniors teaching better diets, and it will impact the school lunch programs.

There are only 14 states that tax groceries and two of those have started giving tax credits and exemptions to disabled, elderly, and low-income households. When you have to give exemptions or credits, it isn't a fair tax. This bill is not creating a fair tax or a needed tax.

We strongly urge a NO vote.

Donna Bleiler  
FAST Legacy