

**April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**House Committee on Revenue**  
**Support for HB 2270**

Good Morning Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Findley and Marsh and Members of the Committee:

My name is Claire Hall and I am a Lincoln County Commissioner and long-time supporter of raising the price of tobacco and nicotine products to reduce youth and adult consumption of these addictive products. I am providing support for HB 2270, which is the Governor's proposal for a \$2 per pack increase on cigarettes and including e-cigarettes into Other Tobacco Products and taxed at 65 percent of wholesale price.

Last week was public health week and the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners adopted a proclamation stating, "Creating a Healthiest Nation: For Science, For Action, For Health." One of the best evidenced based policies we can do to reduce youth consumption of tobacco and nicotine is raising the price of these products.

On behalf of my community I implore you to take this important action. Lincoln County has one of the highest rates of tobacco use in Oregon, with approximately one in three adults smoking cigarettes. Alarmingly, one in five pregnant women in our county smoke. These trends translate to the reality that Lincoln County has one of the highest tobacco-related death rates in the state, at 206.5 deaths per 100,000 people.<sup>1</sup>

On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Board of Commissioners also decided to start exploring Tobacco Retail License so that we are doing what we can in our community. However, we are preempted from enacting a local tobacco tax so we need the state legislature to take action.

*Claire Hall*

Lincoln County Commissioner  
Past President, Association of Oregon Counties

Electronically submitted.

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<sup>1</sup> 2018 Tobacco Facts.