



Testimony by Lynn Youngbar to the Joint Committee on Student Success—Public Hearing, April 18, 2019, 5 PM on HB 3427-1

**Co-Chairs Roblan and Smith-Warner and Members of the Joint Committee on Student Success,**

My name is Lynn Youngbar. I am on the leadership team of a grassroots organization, One Small Thing PDX, (OSTPDX) in Portland. We're citizen activists working to rebuild progressive policies in Oregon. We have over 550 members and work with a statewide coalition of organizations with common values and interests (Collaborative Indivisible Oregon Network).

We believe that we need a major restructuring of our revenue resources in Oregon. We would like the personal income tax to be more progressive to help lower income people and still meet our revenue needs, our property tax system needs restructuring to be equitable and fair and we need to increase the corporate income tax, and add some kind of consumption tax. We know some of these may require constitutional amendments, but we are here for the long term and want to work collaboratively on solutions.

We would like to commend you for the work on the Corporate Activity Tax in HB 3427-1. I think it's time for all of us that can afford it to stand up and say that we are willing to pay more taxes if they are progressive, adequate, equitable and viable.

The CAT as proposed is a good start on a consumption tax, and thank you for excluding groceries, but we would like you to take steps to make it more progressive. We don't think it's necessary to provide a reduction in the income tax as an offset to a CAT—as a flat rate, its regressive. Taxpayers in the top 10% will get the biggest dollar tax cut, while those in the bottom 20% hardly anything. It doesn't make sense to us that giving with one hand and taking away with another will provide the resources we really need to meet our future revenue needs.

I've been before the legislature many times, asking for money for rural development programs that I started during the 90's, but never once did I focus on the source of that revenue and wade into that discussion, until now. I would like to thank you for beginning to engage Oregon's citizens in the complex but important discussion about new revenue. We are stepping up to say we want a fair, progressive, and adequate revenue system even though it means more taxes for many of us. Thank you

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