

May 28, 2019

Chair Nancy Nathanson,  
Vice Chair Lynn Findley, and Members of the  
House Committee on Revenue

RE: HB 2900-A

The Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) is a statewide organization representing Oregon's 36 counties. Established in 1906 to provide a forum for information sharing, AOC now provides a variety of functions and services aimed at supporting Oregon counties and the work they do.

AOC supports HB 2900-A. AOC supported the exemption when it was created in 2005, and when it was extended in 2011 and 2013. This is an important tool for counties to have in their economic development toolbox.

Many of Oregon's counties rely on natural resource-based industries to provide social and economic stability for their citizens. The agricultural sector is a significant economic driver in rural counties across the diversity of the state. The ability to process crops that are produced in the region ensures stable markets for growers and creates and retains jobs on farms and in processing facilities.

House Bill 2900 A extends the sunset for the property tax exemption on qualified real property machinery and equipment that is used in food processing to July 1, 2025, and allows county governing bodies to decide whether to disallow or re-allow the exemption for the county and all other taxing districts within the county for periods of at least three consecutive property tax years.

Counties appreciate that the bill gives individual counties control over the granting of the tax exemption, so that local conditions can be considered.

We urge your support of the bill.

Susan Morgan  
Natural Resources Policy Manager  
Association of Oregon Counties