

Thank you for the opportunity to learn of your proposals thus far and taking the time to listen to interested Oregonians as you near the culmination of your efforts.

My comments this morning around revenue collection and disbursement were based on a career of leadership in Oregon local government and Oregon Health Plan managed care administration. I fully recognize the difficulty of using health care dollars for prevention, social determinants of health and community resilience. Unfortunately, there are no CPT or HCPC codes for taking care of our neighbors and keeping people both emotionally as well as physically healthy.

My initial goal in my comments was to generate a similar amount of Oregon revenue but to diversify funding sources by moving beyond payroll taxes for employers and income additional income taxes for individuals. Property taxes are generally the purview of local government and, in my view, revenue generated from them should go back to communities rather than into the state general fund. Data centers in Oregon do not generally employ a great number of individuals on a day to day basis but do consume large amounts of electricity and use a great deal of water while paying property tax rates far below the amounts paid by other businesses or individuals in the counties in which they reside. I believe a statewide centrally collected surcharge of property taxes should be investigated as a way of offsetting this disparity and generating revenue for enhancing and improving the wellness of Oregonians.

My second goal is to give a stronger voice and leadership in achieving and maintaining wellness of all Oregonians to average Oregonians. This could be accomplished by implementing a shared savings model of dedicating 50% of savings to communities to develop and maintain prevention efforts which are managed outside the medical/insurance world. Communities could be recognized and rewarded for these efforts by declaring that Oregon intends to become the healthiest state in America to raise a family and calling out communities that are exceeding those standards as measured by common metrics which are transparent and accessible to all Oregonians..

Again, thank you all for your hard work and leadership in this most necessary transition.

Kevin