



May 25, 2021

Senate Committee on Revenue & Finance

Honorable Ginny Burdick, Chair

Honorable Brian Boquist, Vice Chair

Honorable Lynn Findley, Member

Honorable Chuck Riley, Member

Honorable Rob Wagner, Senate Majority Leader

The Hillsboro Chamber opposes Senate Bill 137. The Federal government provided desperately needed relief and remedy to small businesses forced to close their doors abruptly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many small businesses were in no way prepared for that outcome and found themselves with no ability to pay their employees or ongoing obligations. The Payroll Protection Program (PPP) was designed to assist businesses stay afloat and keep their employees. The PPP in no way replaced revenue lost from the State's Stay Safe Stay Home Executive Order. Businesses are in no way recovered from the pandemic.

Senate Bill 137 is a needless tax directly against the small businesses many of you pledged to hold harmless this Legislative Session. Leveling a tax against a Federal relief funding package aimed at providing small businesses with a way to maintain their employee base and pay their rent with no income coming through the doors is offensive. There might be a shred of understanding if the State of Oregon had taken a significant financial hit due to the pandemic, much like the small businesses they seek to tax. However, that is simply not the case. Your own economist delivered one of the rosier revenue forecasts Oregon has experienced. The State of Oregon is flush with revenue due to the significant influx of Federal support.

We implore you to put an end to the speculation that our elected State Legislators would truly tax small businesses against their PPP loans. Many business organizations like the Hillsboro Chamber have scrambled to assist businesses in our community access these crucial funding programs and have assured our businesses that our Legislators would simply not consider adding a tax burden to their beleaguered bottom lines.

With a projected \$2.8 billion dollar ending balance, clearly this is not revenue needed to execute the State's essential services. Frankly, it just looks mean-spirited and heartless.

We ask that you put the heart back in the State Legislature and oppose this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Deanna Palm  
President/CEO  
Hillsboro Chamber

Josh Tompkins, Dick's Auto Group  
Chair  
Hillsboro Chamber Public Policy Committee