

Emerson Levy
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
House District 53



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 29, 2023

Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Owens and Hartman, and Members of the Committee,

For the record my name is Emerson Levy, I am the State Representative for House District 53, which includes much of central Oregon.

I am testifying today on behalf of HB 3440, which is a bill intended to modify the current statute ORS 275.272(1)(d)(i), (ii), and (iii), to include smaller counties in the opportunity to pool receipts from tax foreclosed property auctions for a specific policy goal, rather than distribute modest portions to each taxing district.

Currently under the statute, counties with a population greater than 650,000 are able to retain and pool the receipts from tax foreclosed property auctions rather than distribute modest portions to each taxing district as Deschutes County currently does. These pooled funds are then invested to help youth and families with children attain stable housing.

Specifically, the statute states that proceeds are to go to:

- (i) Funds for housing placement and retention support services for youth and families with children;
- (ii) Flexible rental assistance for housing placement for youth and families with children; or
- (iii) Funds to develop new low income housing that is affordable to youth and families with children with 30 percent or lower median family income.

By reducing the population criteria in ORS 275.275 from 650,000 to 200,000, the legislature could provide Deschutes County and the taxing districts within it with the option to use these funds to support our youth and families. After reviewing the actual receipts from tax foreclosed property sales in recent years, we believe that targeting pooled funds at the housing needs of youth and families may be more beneficial for our communities than receiving the proportional slices that our taxing districts are currently receiving.

I urge your support on this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.