



MEASURE: HB 2110
EXHIBIT: AA
HOUSE REVENUE COMMITTEE
DATE: 3/24/2011 PAGES: 2
SUBMITTED BY: MARCIA KELLEY

President: Cynthia Rauscher

Public Policy Chair: Betty Haus

Advocate: Marcia Kelley

March 24, 2011

HB 2110, HB2533, HB2231

AAUW-Oregon represents 2000 members scattered across the state. We have advocated for issues that affect women and families in Oregon since the 1920's.

You have before you various versions of increasing the tobacco tax.

One bill before you changes the traditional distribution of the tobacco tax.

That proposal would have 44% going to the general fund. Traditional distribution has been to fund the Oregon Health Plan, funding the Tobacco Use Reduction Account, send money to the cities and the counties as well as the use of a small amount to fund Elderly and Disabled Special Transportation Fund.

AAUW-Oregon does not support changing the distribution formula for tobacco product taxes for two reasons.

1. Using receipts from tobacco product taxes to "match" Federal funds at the highest level should be a priority to fund needed health care services in the state. The current match rate is about \$1.67 for every Oregon dollar.
2. The citizens of Oregon passed tobacco taxes via an initiative in 1996 with a 71% voter turnout and 97% of those voting on the measure. The tax was dedicated to funding the Oregon Health Plan and tobacco use prevention programs. The

margin of passage was 56-48. That indicates that Oregon citizens support funding health care with tobacco taxes.

Whatever increase is chosen, increases should be on all tobacco products.

The amount of tax should be further indexed to the consumer price index.

Recent figures from the Centers for Disease Control estimate that the cost of cigarette smoking on health costs is approximately \$7.18 per pack. That cost translates into \$193 billion in health related costs on an annual basis in the United States as a result of the use of tobacco.

Research shows that adolescents and young adults are the most likely to change smoking habits due to price. The more we can limit or stop smoking by our next generation, the healthier we will be in this nation.

A healthier nation will be a nation spending less on health care in the future.

Thank you for the consideration of these bills. Please increase the tobacco tax.

Contact: aauworlobby@gmail.com



MEASURE: HB 2231
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Public Policy Chair: Betty Haus

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