

Josephine County Board of Commissioners
Simon G. Hare, Chair · Cheryl Walker, Vice Chair · Keith Heck, Commissioner

March 14, 2013

Honorable Phil Barnhart, Chair
Revenue Committee
Oregon State Legislature
Rep.PhilBarnhart@state.or.us

Via E-mail

RE: House Bill 2870

Honorable Barnhart:

The Board of County Commissioners for Josephine County respectfully requests our comments be made a part of the Official Record regarding the above House Bill. We are writing in support of House Bill 2870 and request you move it forward, as it will remove an unfair restriction on counties' ability to use a method of raising revenue. Many rural counties, including ours, are experiencing financial difficulties as a result of lost revenue from the O&C Revenue Sharing (Federal payments) in lieu of taxes. This loss is having a severe impact on our ability to deliver basic services, and we need every means possible to replace that lost revenue.

By removing the prohibition against the imposition of taxes by a county on cigarettes and tobacco products, House Bill 2870 would give counties the option of considering a tax proposal that could benefit them in two ways: (1) by raising needed revenue for their General Funds; and (2) by dedicating at least 20% of that revenue to their Public Health Departments.

In Josephine County, our Public Health Department is experiencing serious financial problems. Under this Bill, if the County decides to implement such a tax, much needed assistance would be provided to that department, resulting in our ability to maintain adequate public health services for the citizens of Josephine County.

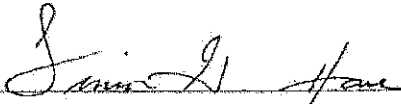
COURTHOUSE

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Thank you for your consideration.

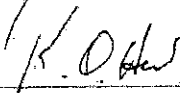
Josephine County Board of Commissioners



Simon G. Hare, Chair



Cherryl Walker, Vice-Chair



K. O. Heck, Commissioner

cc via E-Mail:

Mike McArthur, Executive Director
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Honorable Jessica Vega Pederson
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COUNTY STRUCTURES

GENERAL LAW - COUNTY COURTS					
Judge (full time) + 2 Commissioners (part time)					
County	County Judge as Chair/Administrator	Non-Partisan		Probate Jurisdiction	Juvenile Jurisdiction
		Judge	Commish		
Crook	X				
Gilliam	X	X		X	X
Grant	X	X		X	
Harney	X	X		X	
Malheur	X	X		X	
Morrow	X	X			X
Sherman	X	X		X	X
Wheeler	X	X		X	X

GENERAL LAW - COUNTY COMMISSION								
County	Three Members	Five Members	Full Time		At Large	Non- Partisan	Elected Chair	Administrator
			Chair	Commish				
Baker	X		X		X		X	Chair
Clackamas		X	X	X	X	X	X	Appointed
Columbia	X		X	X	X			None
Coos	X		X	X	X	X		None
Curry	X		X	X	X			None
Deschutes	X		X	X	X			Appointed
Douglas	X		X	X	X	X		None
Jefferson	X				X	X		Appointed
Klamath	X		X	X	X			None
Lake	X		X	X	X			Appointed
Lincoln	X		X	X	X			None
Linn	X		X	X	X			Appointed
Marion	X		X	X	X			Appointed
Polk	X		X	X	X			Appointed
Tillamook	X		X	X	X	X		None
Union	X		X	X	X			Appointed
Wallowa	X		X		X		X	Chair
Wasco	X		X	X	X			None
Yamhill	X		X	X	X	X		Appointed

HOME RULE COUNTIES									
County	Three Members	Five Members	Elected Chair	At Large	# of Districts	Full Time		Non- Partisan	Administrator
						Chair	Comm		
Benton	X			X		X	X		None
Clatsop		X			5			X	Appointed
Hood River		X	X	Chair	4			X	Appointed
Jackson	X			X		X	X		Appointed
Josephine	X			X		X	X		None
Lane		X			5	X	X	X	Appointed
Multnomah		X	X	Chair	4	X	X	X	Chair
Umatilla	X			X		X	X	X	None
Washington		X	X	Chair	4	X		X	Appointed