



HB 4081 Extends another sunset on property taxes without review – this is the third attempt this session to by-pass review

Testimony for the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee – Jody Wisler

Support for nonprofit-owned low income housing is indeed important, and providing local communities' services and education on a tax free basis is a viable option.

However, Tax Fairness Oregon urges a no vote on HB 4081. This body established the sunset and review process for a reason and hired an additional staff person for LRO to make sure the reviews are thorough.

This bill asks for an early extension of the current 2018 sunset, in effect by-passing the review process due next year.

Additionally, the bill is in direct conflict with the work of the special committee to review tax breaks for nonprofits. Since that committee has yet to present its report, extension of this sunset at this time is inappropriate in two ways.

This is the third bill we've seen this year asking for an early extension of a sunset:

Wolf depreciation asked to jump from 2017 to 2026

Biomass manure digesters from 2018 to 2022

Nonprofit-owned low income housing from 2018 to 2022

Additionally, the University Venture Development Tax Credit is back after a decision not to renew last year. We also have Brownfields and Industrial Improvements bills each asking for extra-long numbers of years before their sunsets, and have sunset dates that are out of cycle with like tax breaks. Brownfields originally asked for a 2037 sunset and now it seeks a 2027 sunset. Industrial Improvements seeks a 2027 sunset. Each of these should sunset in 2024. Sunsets during odd-numbered years are not desirable as they suggest sunset and review in short sessions. Finally, the bill for spouses of public safety personnel killed in action has not sunset date at all.

Clearly it is time to both to tighten your direction to Legislative Council about how to write sunsets that properly set new programs into our sunset and review process, and to send a clear message throughout the building that the revenue committees don't allow programs to circumvent the review process.

We read the bills and follow the money