



Taxpayers Association of Oregon

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P.O. Box 23573, Tigard, OR 97281

No on HB 2123, 2158, 2159, 2169, 2270

When the Governor drafted her \$800 million tax on alcohol and tobacco, we did a protest petition against it and also included any tax on soda. We gathered 4,000 signatures in 40 days and told people we would bring these petitions with us to the Capitol if any product tax emerges in the legislature. We ask a no vote on all five bills being considered.

When it comes to tobacco taxes, we went to the experts at the Mackinac center and asked them what would happen to Oregon tobacco sales if we dramatically increased the tax by what is being proposed. Their national models show that Oregon would lose considerably to the black market. In fact, over one third of all tobacco sales would be sold by the black market and other tax avoidance means and stripped away from local small businesses.

A cigarette tax is regressive. It hurts poor and lower class and more. We should not build a funding base on the backs of the lower class and a revenue base that has been declining.

We oppose raising the per-stick cigar tax. Already local cigar shops lose customers to online sales. When we lose to online sales we lose tax revenue, we lose jobs and the state loses the ability to track and understand who is selling to whom.

We oppose hitting vaping products with high taxes because they are helping people to quit smoking.