



April 29, 2019

Re: The local preemption provision in HB 3427 would shield Oregon’s largest corporations from effective local taxation and undermine the ability of local governments and voters to fund clean energy, social justice and other public-benefit projects

Dear Oregon Senators and Representatives,

We strongly support the HB 3427’s goal of increasing funding for public education. We are writing, however, to express our strong opposition to the preemption clause of HB 3427, Section 67.

We simply cannot support preempting Oregon cities, counties and local voters from using one of the few taxation strategies that can be effective in the face of the well-worn accounting tricks and loopholes that large corporations successfully use to avoid paying their fair share of taxes. The fact that HB 3427 itself relies on a gross receipts tax reflects the value of gross receipts taxes.

We know that the corporations pushing for this preemption opposed the Portland Clean Energy Initiative (PCEI), which many of our organizations backed as an important way to fund both clean energy investment and related job-training for low-income communities. While we do not attempt to speak for the coalition that passed PCEI, we believe strongly that the Legislature should not with such a broad brush preempt any Oregon community from the ability to fund a

law similar to PCEI or any other valid public purpose.

Our concerns are not resolved by simply exempting Portland from the preemption. We request that you remove section 67 in its entirety.

Sincerely,

350 Eugene
Audubon Society of Portland
Beyond Toxics
Columbia Riverkeeper
Community Cycling Center
Cultivate Oregon
Eugene-Springfield Chapter of the NAACP
Latinos Unidos Siempre
Neighbors for Clean Air
OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
Portland Chapter of the NAACP
Rogue Climate
Safe Routes to School National Partnership, Pacific Northwest Regional Network
The Street Trust
Unite Oregon