CLACKAMAS
COUNTY

February 7, 2017

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
SB 235: Relating to Tobacco Retail Licensing

Clackamas County supports SB 235: The Board of County Commissioners supports SB 235, which creates a uniform, statewide licensing program for tobacco retailers in Oregon and helps to prevent youth access to tobacco products.

Tobacco use remains the most preventable cause of illness and death in America. Because of this, Clackamas County, in addition to many of our other public health partners, has made reducing the use of tobacco and other nicotine products a top priority, particularly among youth.

Data from the 2015 Oregon Healthy Teen Survey indicates that 28% of 11th graders in Clackamas County used some form of tobacco product within the last 30 days and that 35% said it would be "very easy" to get some tobacco if they wanted it. The recently released report of the state's Tobacco Retail Inspection Program affirms that 25% of attempted tobacco purchases by minors in Clackamas County were successful.

Clackamas County supports three principles currently within SB 235 to address youth access to tobacco products:

- A uniform, statewide licensing program administered by the Oregon Department of Revenue, while maintaining local control of education and enforcement activities.

- A state set minimum requirement allowing Boards of County Commissioners to implement stronger time, place, and manner ordinances.

- Streamlined licensing for businesses that have multiple locations, creating efficiency for businesses and supporting the administrative needs at the Department of Revenue.

Clackamas County supports SB 235 as an effective strategy to limit youth access to tobacco and other nicotine products. A uniform statewide retailer-licensing program will provide us the necessary infrastructure to support and measure the effectiveness of all our tobacco and nicotine product-related prevention efforts.

We urge a "yes" vote for SB 235.

Please contact Chris Lyons at clyons@clackamas.us for more information.