



**In Support of**

**HB 2123**

**HB 2158**

**HB 2159**

**HB 2169**

**HB 2270**

House Committee on Revenue – Maureen Barnhart – 4.10.2019

Tax Fairness Oregon supports the imposition of taxes on vaping products, as well as increasing the taxes on cigarettes and cigars.

It is known that increasing the costs of these unhealthy products results in decreased use. The revenue, directed toward the Oregon Health Plan, and will support the health needs of the individuals who smoke and/or vape, as well as those who suffer from second-hand smoke.

Vaping is especially of concern regarding youth. Most humans are susceptible to new “toys”, and my experience as a middle school teacher is that young adolescents will convince themselves that vaping is an attractive activity that is safer than smoking (or, in their minds, absolutely safe).

The proposed increase in taxes on a pack of cigarettes to \$2.60 (HB 2270) is still well below the cost of cigarettes in Washington and California.

***We read the bills and follow the money***