



April 29, 2019

Senator Arnie Roblan, Co-Chair
Representative Barbara Smith Warner, Co-Chair
Senator Tim Knopp, Co-Vice Chair
Representative Greg Smith, Co-Vice Chair
Members of the Joint Committee On Student Success

Dear Joint Student Success Committee:

Our organizations recognize the value of a strong investment in public schools for the long-term success of our families and economy, and we have been strongly advocating, in good faith, to raise at least \$2 billion in corporate tax revenue to invest in our schools for many months now.

While we strongly support the HB 3427's goal of increasing funding for public education, we are opposed to the preemption clause of HB 3427, Section 67. Existing local initiatives like the Portland Clean Energy Fund (PCEF) should be held harmless by HB 3427, and Oregon's many communities should have the opportunity to address inequities and opportunities for growth and investment utilizing all of the tools currently available to them, including local gross receipts taxes.

Historic inequities make this kind of local preemption particularly distressing. For too long, people of color have been effectively shut out of the local civic process, a result of institutionalized racism that has limited access to policy decisions and economic opportunities for historically marginalized communities.

The proposed pre-emption to HB 3427, Section 67, undercuts local communities' ability to design programs like the PCEF, as well as solutions to address critical local needs such as clean water, adequate housing, and transportation infrastructure driven by coming local budget shortfalls.

Our elected leaders have a responsibility to honor the will of local voters in Portland and in every part of Oregon. We also believe that the Legislature should not preempt any Oregon community from the ability to fund a law similar to the PCEF or any other valid public purpose. Our concerns are not resolved by simply exempting Portland from the preemption.

Sincerely,

Ashley Henry
Executive Director
Business For A Better Portland

Caitlin Baggot Davis
Executive Director
North Star Action Fund

Jesse Beason
President & CEO
NW Health Foundation