



133 SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Suite 201 • Portland, OR 97204 • (503) 497-1000 • [www.friends.org](http://www.friends.org)  
Southern Oregon Office • PO Box 2442 • Grants Pass, OR 97528 • (541) 474-1155  
Willamette Valley Office • 454 Willamette Street • Eugene, OR 97405 • (503) 497-1000

April 29, 2019

Dear Oregon Senators and Representatives,

Thank you for prioritizing a solution to raise needed revenue for education in the form of House Bill (HB) 3427 (Student Success Act).

After careful review, we write to respectfully oppose Section 67 of the -21 amendments to HB 3427 in the Student Success Act. The proposed amendment reads:

SECTION 67. Local taxes preempted. (1) Except as expressly authorized by this section, the authority to impose, in this state, a tax upon the commercial activity of an entity is vested solely in the Legislative Assembly. A city, county, district or other political subdivision or municipal corporation of this state may not impose, by ordinance or other law, a tax upon commercial activity.“(2) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to any tax, or to the subsequent amendment of the provisions of any tax, if the ordinance or other law imposing the tax is in effect and operative on March 1, 2019.

As a statewide organization, 1000 Friends of Oregon works to create land use planning policies and investments to help create resilient and equitable communities and thriving natural and working landscapes. The proposed amendment would hinder a community’s ability to plan for and invest in our communities and landscapes.

As we understand the proposed amendment, the proposed amendment would limit local governments’ ability across Oregon to work with Oregonians to develop new funding and financing sources for key community resources: housing, transportation, parks and nature, and energy efficiency improvements. We know that ongoing investments in these key resources help Oregonians, including students, thrive. What would a future look like for our students without a healthy environment? A robust transportation network? A healthy, safe, affordable place to call home? So many investments in these key resources across the state are the result of community-driven, locally-adopted initiatives. We urge you to reject the proposed amendment and support communities’ ongoing conversations and creative solutions to unlock these necessary sources of funding and financing.

Thank you for your service to our state and your consideration to remove the proposed amendment.

Sincerely,

Russ Hoeflich  
Executive Director