

HB 2270-A Tobacco Tax Increase and Vaping Tax Inclusion

Co-Chairs Hass and Nathanson and members of the committee

The OWRC strongly supports the increase and inclusion of taxes in this bill. The cost to personal health of young people alone are reasons to support this legislation.

The increase of vaping by middle school and high school students is alarming. It is difficult for schools to detect and deter usage.

The increase in the cigarette tax will make Oregon closer to Washington and California. While there may be some loss of cross border sales to citizens to the north, buying cigarettes in Oregon is not the only cause of many Washington vehicles using Oregon roads on a daily basis.

The revenue achieved by successful implementation of this policy will provide for better health for Oregonians at the same time as providing resources for the Oregon Health plan.

We urge passage of HB 2270-A.

Marcia Kelley

OWRC Public Policy Advocate