



March 31, 2021

Co-Chairs Golden and Smith and Members of the General Government Subcommittee,

AOC represents all 36 of Oregon's counties on many diverse issues and serves as a forum to discuss issues of importance to counties. Representing Oregon counties since 1906, the Association of Oregon Counties unites counties to advocate, communicate, and educate through information sharing and consensus development.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment today on HB 5537, the Department of Revenue budget.

Oregon's counties work with the Department of Revenue regularly and routinely and we greatly appreciate the productive and collaborative relationship we share.

AOC supports funding to modernize the technology for the property valuation system that develops real market values for large industrial and centrally assessed properties across the state. This is work that the DOR does on behalf of counties. The current system is not integrated, old, and inefficient. AOC wants to specifically highlight support for Policy Option Package 102, which would fund the Electronic Valuation Information System (ELVIS) project so that counties can be certain that aging software won't put their revenues at risk.

AOC also urges the restoration of \$3.4M General Fund to the Nonprofit Homes for the Elderly Program. Reimbursement. This property tax exemption is important to counties and will help prevent cuts to services at the county level. This cut was also proposed in 2019 and the Legislature wisely restored funding during that budget cycle. AOC asks the Subcommittee to do the same for the 2021-2023 budget.

Sincerely,

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