



SB 153 Ports property Tax Credit-Opposition

Senate Finance and Revenue Committee

February 9, 2021

Chair Burdick and Members of the Committee:

This bill appears to be quite simple. Just extend a tax credit for some property for ports.

When reading this quite simple bill, it seems that the bill is asking to extend port property tax exemption. This exemption does not expire until July 2023.

The staff description says that the purpose of the credit is to give the ports a property tax exemption if it leases port property to an entity that operates for profit.

When a special district leases property for a café that special district is assessed property taxes on the amount of square footage that is leased.

Why should ports be different?

This tax credit extension is not covered in the report on sunseting tax credits. That may be because it does not sunset until July of 2023.

It seems that whoever wanted this introduced wishes to circumvent the normal tax credit review cycle by cutting in line.

As there was no testimony presented by a proponent, I would suggest the committee let the bill die in committee. The property tax exemption will not be eliminated. It just will not be extended for what in effect would be 8 years.

Possibly by the 2023 session there may be some movement on fixing our broken property tax system. In the meantime, the exemption would remain on the books.

Marcia Kelley, Public Policy Advocate

Email: owrcadvocacy@gmail.com

OWRC, PO BOX 3025, Portland, OR 97209