

Date: May 25, 2021

To: Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
From: Emily Soules, Oregon Small Business Association

RE: Testimony in Opposition to SB 137-2

Chair Burdick and Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue:

The Oregon Small Business Association is strongly opposed to the -2 amendments in SB 137.

Over the past year, I've spoken to several Oregon small business owners who shared heartbreaking stories of how the COVID19 pandemic has devastated their business.

One rural business watched their income quickly plummet to zero with the first COVID19 lockdown. This family had only about \$1000 in their personal savings to pay for both business and personal expenses. Another small business owner starting working a second job to keep her business afloat. Another, who can only speak to me in small segments of time, is trying to cover multiple employee positions in his store and struggles to keep his doors open.

If they could leave work to testify, Oregon small businesses would tell you that they are scared. Many still don't know if they will recover from the impacts of the COVID19 pandemic. Despite starting to reopen, Oregon small businesses remain in a state of crisis and cutting lifelines or creating new taxes could put them permanently out of business.

The -2 amendment removes critical cash flow from businesses who are struggling the most. A tax increase, following a record revenue forecast, is inconceivable and unnecessary.

For these reasons, the Oregon Small Business Association strongly urges you to oppose SB137-2.

Thank you,

Emily Soules
Oregon Small Business Association

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