



# Health Department

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February 16, 2021

Senate Committee on Health Care  
900 Court St. NE - Remote B  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: SB 587 - Requires Department of Revenue to issue license to qualified retailers of tobacco products and inhalant delivery systems.

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Knopp, and members of the Committee,

Multnomah County supports a state-wide Tobacco Retail Licensing (TRL) program. SB 587 will ensure that all retailers in Oregon are equipped with the appropriate information and tools to keep tobacco and nicotine inhalant products out of the hands of our young people and help protect them from a lifetime of addiction and poor health.

TRL is a foundational and versatile public health regulatory tool for tracking and monitoring tobacco product retailers. Without statewide TRL, enforcement for tobacco control violations is haphazard and inconsistent, making data collection and evidence-based regulation very difficult. We must know exactly who is selling tobacco products and to whom they are selling these products, in order to adopt regulations that best protect and support the community. We also recognize that local jurisdictions may have different compliance issues to regulate and may need to vary how they regulate.

Multnomah County's Tobacco Retail Licensing program is entering its sixth year of implementation. Multnomah County's TRL program engaged local stakeholders and was developed for the specific needs of the community. The program was created to fit the contours of Multnomah County and is self-sustaining through the collection of annual license fees and civil penalties. In order to maintain self-sufficiency, it is critical that we continue to set our licensing fees, without any artificial caps.

We are proud to say that tobacco retail licensing in Multnomah County has been a highly successful program. Multnomah County works conscientiously with businesses, providing applications and materials in seven languages. We provide assistance to tobacco retailers to help them comply with the ordinance and remedy violations found during inspections. We also enforce penalties in accordance with our rules if needed.

As a result, Multnomah County is supportive of statewide TRL since the Multnomah County program is given specific allowance for any appropriate future regulations and fee structure that may be stronger than those adopted for the State -- while recognizing the compromise that would limit local public health authorities in restricting sale of tobacco products in retail settings with pharmacies. We appreciate the thoughtful and

thorough legislation in SB 587 for local public health authorities who have adopted tobacco retail licensing programs and look forward to continued consideration of local regulation.

We appreciate your dedication to this very important issue. Thank you for your consideration of our local experience in this public health discussion.

Thank you,

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Multnomah County Health Department