



The Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO) and County Commissioners **support SB 587**, which will establish a statewide tobacco retail licensure (TRL) system in Oregon.

This TRL system in Oregon is long overdue. Licensing tobacco retailers and consistent enforcement is an evidence-based method of tobacco control.^{i,ii} Thirty-eight US States and Territories have TRL policies – Oregon is one of the few remaining that does not have such a system.¹ However, the idea is popular in Oregon; according to the 2017 Oregon Health Authority online panel survey, almost 75% of adults support requiring retailers to have a license to sell tobacco products.ⁱⁱⁱ

CLHO and the above counties have signed onto support SB 587 because it includes four major points:

- requires all tobacco retailers to obtain a license and renew it annually;
- requires an annual fee that will cover the costs associated with retailer education, surveillance, and enforcement;
- allows local jurisdictions to maintain their local tobacco retail license program; and
- includes language that any violation of local, state, or federal tobacco- related laws would also be a violation of the state tobacco retail licensing program.

In addition, CLHO and the Counties have agreed to one preemption in the bill. While local public health and local governments are usually very opposed to preemption we have agreed to this one as a compromise to pass this bill this session. We would not support another preemption that further restricts local public health authorities from regulating the time, place, and manner in which tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, are sold.

Tobacco remains the number one cause of preventable death and disease in Oregon.^{iv} However, comprehensive tobacco prevention in conjunction with cessation programs plays a crucial role in the prevention of many chronic conditions. Enacting a statewide TRL would be a step towards comprehensive tobacco prevention in Oregon and giving all Oregonians the chance for a healthy life.

Signed,

Xanthippe Augerot, Chair
Benton County Commission

Joe Berney, Chair
Lane County Commission

Tootie Smith, Chair
Clackamas County Commission

Deborah Kafoury, Chair
Multnomah County Commission

Patti Adair & Patrick Chang
Deschutes County Commissioners

Kathryn Harrington, Chair
Washington County Commission

Kelley Minty Morris, Chair
Klamath County Commission

Morgan Cowling, Executive Director
Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials



For more information please contact Morgan Cowling, Executive Director
morgan@oregonclho.org | 503-329-6923 | oregonclho.org



ⁱ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020). *STATE system licensure fact sheet*. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/statesystem/factsheets/licensure/Licensure.html#:~:text=These%20five%20states%20are%20Idaho,from%20state%2Dlevel%20statutory%20laws>.

ⁱⁱ McLaughlin, I. (2010). License to kill? Tobacco retailer licensing as an effective enforcement tool. *Tobacco Control Legal Consortium*, 1-18. Retrieved from <https://www.publichealthlawcenter.org/sites/default/files/resources/tclc-syn-retailer-2010.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ Oregon Health Authority. (2017). *Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention section: Online panel survey, 2017*. Retrieved from <https://oms.oregon.gov/pipermail/healthytribes/attachments/20180531/99d8f3fd/attachment.pdf>

^{iv} Oregon Health Authority. (2020). *Oregon tobacco facts*. Retrieved from <https://sharesystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le9139.pdf>



For more information please contact Morgan Cowling, Executive Director
morgan@oregonclho.org | 503-329-6923 | oregonclho.org

