

Oregon Coalition of Precious Metals Dealers

June 21, 2023

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

Testimony in support of HB 2073-A

Chair Meek, Vice Chair Boquist and Members of the Committee:

For the record, I am Jo Bell and I am here representing the Oregon Coalition of Precious Metals Dealers. The Coalition is comprised of precious metals dealers who are local community businesses that buy and/or sell precious metals such as gold, silver, platinum, and palladium.

We are here to request your support for HB 2073-A.

HB 2073-A specifies that, when dealers sell specified items of precious metals, the cost paid by the dealer for the item is excluded from commercial activity subject to the CAT. The intent is to provide an equitable and consistent tax treatment for precious metals which are purchased as an investment or as a medium of exchange from precious metals dealers. This change makes the status for the CAT for precious metals dealers consistent with the way it addresses similar assets such as stocks and bonds sold by stockbrokers and other investment counselors. The value of those investments are already exempt from the CAT.

The definition of precious metals in the bill is very clear and clarifies that the exemption is for precious metals valued by weight (content) and not by form, limiting the exemption so it will not apply to items such as collectible coins or jewelry.

We would like to thank House Revenue Chair Nathanson, Vice Chair Reschke and members of the House Committee, as well as the Legislative Revenue staff for their willingness to assist us in developing language for the bill that clearly addresses the concerns that led to our request for the exemption.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. We respectfully request your support for HB 2073-A.