



**COALITION OF  
OREGON SCHOOL  
ADMINISTRATORS**



January 24, 2023

TO: House Committee on Revenue  
FR: Richard Donovan on behalf of OSBA and Morgan Allen on behalf of COSA  
RE: HB 2088 Testimony

Chair Nathanson, Vice Chairs Reschke and Walters, and members of the committee:

On behalf of the Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) and the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators (COSA), we are here to express concern with the text of HB 2088.

Local revenue is a vital source of funding for Oregon's public education system. In the 2021-23 biennium, about \$4.6 billion in local revenue was delivered to the K-12 system, which is [roughly one-third](#) of total funding across the education system.

HB 2088 would direct each county treasurer to withhold three percent of all property tax receipts for use by counties to administer the state's property tax. This would effectively remove tens of millions of dollars from the state's public K-12 school system. There is no existing language in the bill that would make the K-12 system whole for this loss of money.

Oregon's students are coming to school in a post-COVID 19 world with greater needs than ever before. These students are dealing with achievement and attendance challenges that are greater than the pre-pandemic challenges they faced. And funding shakeups represent an existential threat to the ability of public education to address those student needs. This risk was one of the five named highlighted in the [systemic risk report](#) completed by Secretary of State Fagan just a few months ago.

The problem that the bill seeks to fix is, as we understand it, underfunding of county-level property tax administration. This is an important problem and we would like to work with the members of the committee to address this challenge. And, in the past, many of the members on this committee have been strong allies of public education. However, in this time of increased need for students, enacting a policy to pull crucial, dedicated sources of revenue away from public schools would be a costly mistake for Oregon's students and public schools.

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