



Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Boquist and members of the Committee, I am Josh Tompkins, Chair of the Public Policy Committee for the Washington County Chamber of Commerce. Thank you for the opportunity to support Senate Bill 127. SB 127 is a light at the end of a very long, dark tunnel for small businesses across the State of Oregon. I don't say that with any added drama or effect. As you know, our small business community is beleaguered and suffering from the impact of the pandemic, labor shortages and inflation which has driven their costs higher and higher.

The Chamber's role in advocating for small businesses puts us boots on the ground with more than 750 small business across Washington County. It is no exaggeration to say more than half of our members mention the burden of the CAT tax on a repeated basis.

Providing the kind of relief SB 127 represents would send a loud and clear signal to small businesses—we hear you, we understand and we're here to help.

Tax burden is always listed as one of the top three issues concerning small businesses and the establishment of the CAT tax without small business relief, was for many, the final straw. We appreciate this Committee's willingness to hold a public hearing and allow the voices of small business to be heard.

Thank you for the opportunity to support SB 127 and we urge you to vote in support of helping Oregon's small business community.

Thank you!