

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2576 A
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND REVENUE
APRIL 25, 2023**

**PRESENTED BY: ROBERT MANICKE, OREGON TAX COURT JUDGE
OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT**

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

My name is Robert Manicke, and I am the Judge and administrative head of the Oregon Tax Court. The Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) is neutral on HB 2576 A, and we provide this testimony for informational purposes.

Introduction to the Oregon Tax Court.

The legislature formed the Tax Court in 1961 in order to concentrate all cases involving state tax law in one court with specialized expertise, instead of having those cases spread among all the local county circuit courts. Today, we handle mostly state income tax cases and property tax cases. Since 1995, the Tax Court has had two divisions. The Magistrate Division is where almost all tax cases start, and 90 percent of cases are resolved there without any further appeal. When a party appeals a magistrate's decision, the case comes to me in the Regular Division, where I serve as the only judge. Any further appeal goes directly to the Oregon Supreme Court.

What does HB 2576 A do?

HB 2576 A would allow a taxpayer to request review in the Oregon Tax Court of a local government decision concerning taxes imposed on or measured by net income. In January, I testified before the House Committee on Revenue to suggest potential amendments to the introduced measure that clarify the appeals process.

After the House public hearing, I worked with Oregon Business and Industry on amendment language and sent copies of my comments to the Portland Revenue Division and the Oregon Department of Justice. I want to again thank Scott Bruun, Nikki Dobay, Jeff Newgard, and Legislative Revenue Office staff for their willingness to work with me. The A-Engrossed version you now have before you is the product of that work. While OJD is neutral on the measure, we believe that the amendments will make the appeals process clearer for taxpayers and taxing authorities alike.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.