



Testimony in Support of House Bill 2119
House Revenue Committee
January 28, 2025

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2119.

My name is Scott Bruun, and I am the President and CEO of the Oregon Bankers Association and Community Banks of Oregon. Together we represent the FDIC-insured banks and trust companies operating in Oregon. We also work to advocate for a healthier business climate in Oregon because every business issue is also a banking issue.

HB 2119 is designed to grant trade associations, such as the Oregon Bankers Association (OBA), and other membership organizations, the ability to bring declaratory judgment actions in the Oregon Tax Court. Specifically, it would allow associations to act on behalf of their members when they can demonstrate that a particular Oregon tax provision causes harm to their membership. This measure would enable associations to seek legal resolutions efficiently and effectively on behalf of their members.

The benefits of HB 2119 are twofold:

First - Streamlined litigation: Rather than requiring multiple taxpayers to individually challenge the same tax provision, HB 2119 would allow a single legal action brought by an association. This not only conserves judicial resources but also ensures consistent legal outcomes, benefiting taxpayers and the state alike.

Second – A focused scope of action: The bill is narrowly tailored, allowing only declaratory judgment actions. These legal proceedings provide a mechanism for the court to make specific legal determinations, such as assessing the constitutionality or statutory validity of a tax provision. This is a smart and targeted way to address complex tax disputes without increasing litigation.

Importantly, HB 2119 would not expand the volume of litigation in the Oregon Tax Court, but Instead, enhance efficiencies by empowering associations like the OBA to address potential systemic tax issues that affect our members collectively.

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee, organizations like the Oregon Bankers Association exist to advocate for our members by providing expertise, resources, and willingness to engage in the legislative and regulatory process. HB 2119 aligns with this

mission by enabling associations to play a proactive role in protecting our members' interests in tax matters of broad impact. This, in turn, allows banks and businesses to dedicate their resources to what they do best, while also reducing the burden on individual taxpayers and streamlining the tax litigation process.

I urge your support for HB 2119, legislation that would benefit Oregon taxpayers and businesses alike by ensuring a more efficient and judicious resolution of tax issues.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

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