

Date:	April 8th, 2025
To:	Chair Nathanson, Vice Chairs Walters and Reschke, and Members of the House Committee on Revenue
From:	Association of Oregon Counties Legislative Affairs Manager, Justin Low
Subject:	Neutral – HB 2089 -2 Amendment

For the record, my name is Justin Low, and I am offering testimony on behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC).

When we last appeared before this committee on HB 2089, AOC opposed the introduced version of this bill and its other two mirror-image bills that were being heard at the same time—the introduced versions created serious financial and administrative concerns for our member counties and felt distant from the work and conversations on this topic that had been done prior to this session.

Since then, Representative Emerson Levy has worked diligently and tirelessly to convene stakeholders together, listen to concerns and requests, and incorporate feedback into a proposal, seen in the -2 amendment, that gets us one step closer to landing the plane on this matter.

AOC greatly appreciates the work done with Rep. Levy and the stakeholders on this bill and wants to acknowledge that some of our requests have been met and addressed in this amendment, specifically with the removal of foreclosure notice to heirs which concerned us from a liability and workload standpoint, and the requirement of notice in five languages which would have created logistical and financial difficulties for our members.

I'd like to note that there are some minor pieces of the bill that need polishing in the process prior to counties receiving deed to properties, and that a handful of concerns in the post-deed process remain, which I will let our county counsels speak to. These concerns have also been relayed to Rep. Levy.

In raising these outstanding concerns, it's our hope to emphasize that additional requirements being added in this foreclosure surplus process are not only detrimental to counties and their limited resources, but also to the individuals whose potential surplus checks may be decreased when county costs are recouped. And, in the event a property does not sell, counties would ultimately have to absorb the costs that come with these additional requirements.

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In closing, I believe that we are making positive progress toward a bill that mitigates most of county concerns, but are hopeful that some final issues can be resolved with the amendment drafter and other stakeholders prior to this bill receiving a work session.

Until then, AOC remains opposed to the introduced version, is neutral on the -2, and is ready to work on a final amendment that addresses outstanding concerns.

Best,

Justin Low
Legislative Affairs Manager for Governance and Revenue