

**Good afternoon Vice-Chair Jama and Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you. My name is Matt Evans, I'm a native Oregonian and I'm here representing the Taxpayer Association of Oregon to urge a "no" vote on SB 1198.**

**I'd like to make two basic points about SB 1198. First it is yet another proposal during this Session that seeks to shift the Legislature's responsibilities to a State Agency. Rule-making authority is not law-making authority, and we urge you to resist moving decision-making to unelected bodies. Oregon voters cannot express their displeasure with the Oregon Health Authority by voting them out of office. This bill is anti-Democratic. Too much meddling by State Agencies has already proven to be harmful although that lesson's having a hard time sticking. I would remind the Committee that the**

**OLCC banned “happy hour” prices advertising decades ago.**

**With the rise of Social Media, prices began to show up on personal feeds anyway, some of which were wrong, but with businesses having no way to correct them due to the ban.**

**Ultimately OLCC had to rescind the ban. Let’s make sure government in Oregon goes with the light touch.**

**I also want to quickly address the disconnect we see between this body and what makes your goals possible.**

**Oregon’s General Fund is almost wholly dependent on personal and corporate income tax revenues. A thriving, diverse economy is essential to the success of government in Oregon. We take a lot of actions designed to bring large businesses to Oregon, or to encourage them to expand here. But the Office of Economic Analysis would tell you that small businesses provide most of the jobs in Oregon. This is one of**

**a series of bills aimed at vaping this Session that could cause a dramatic, and perhaps fatal injury to a large number of small businesses in our State. It could shut down hundreds of tax-paying small businesses and put thousands of tax-paying Oregonians out of work. State Government is already claiming to be facing a large deficit in the coming biennium – passage of this bill will make that problem worse, not better. We encourage you to always consider your decisions in the light that strong economic activity in our State is the only thing allowing you to fund what you truly care about. We urge a “No” vote on SB 1198. I’d be happy to take any questions.**

**Matt Evans  
Taxpayer Assn of Oregon**