

**To the Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee:**

My name is Greg Mitchell, and I am the President & CEO of First Tech Federal Credit Union, serving one hundred and seventy thousand members in Oregon. We've been serving Oregonians since 1952 and serve the employees of more than 900 technology and specialty brands including Oregon employers Intel, Tektronix, Nike, OHSU, Microsoft and Amazon. In 2024, we provided members in Oregon, and other states, with more than \$5.4 billion in affordable loans, while also delivering over \$2 million to our local communities including 25,000 employee volunteer service hours.

Passage of SB 781, which would require credit unions to pay state taxes on loans and services provided to businesses when a bank chooses to sell assets to a local not-for-profit financial cooperative. This or any other initiative aimed at taxing Credit Unions, is a direct tax on consumers. This is bad for Oregon and must be defeated today.

Credit unions play a vital role in providing affordable and accessible financial services to Oregonians, particularly in underserved communities. If credit unions are disincentivized from considering the purchase of bank assets, consumers may experience reduced access to services, as banks exit local markets, leaving towns (and consumers) with nowhere to go. Fewer options could lead to higher fees for consumers, less personalized service, and diminished financial inclusion, particularly in rural areas where credit unions are often the only financial option.

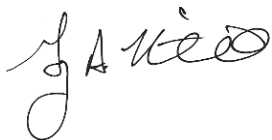
Additionally, very few banks sell to credit unions. From 2012 to 2024, there were 2,499 bank acquisitions by another banks, and only 78 bank sales to a credit union. This represents less than 3% of total bank acquisitions. These are community-preserving acquisitions, not aggressive expansions. Credit unions account for only 0.6% of total assets in banks sold during this timeframe. While \$3.1 trillion in assets were acquired by other banks, just \$31.3 billion was acquired by credit unions. Oregon lawmakers should investigate why small local banks are selling in the first place, as large, out-of-state banks continue to dominate the financial services landscape.

If you need a use case, I encourage you to look at what has happened in Oakridge, Oregon. We passed on the purchase of Banner Bank's Oakridge branch. That action caused Banner Bank to leave town causing significant disruption to local businesses and families. To date, First Tech is the only financial institution in town. If First Tech were to be taxed in any way, economics would force us to abandon Oakridge. Do you really want that outcome for residents in small towns in Oregon? I certainly hope not.

**Please vote no on SB 781.** Let's keep financial services accessible, especially for the people and places that need them most.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



**Greg A. Mitchell**  
President & CEO  
First Technology FCU  
5100 NE Dawson Creek Drive  
Hillsboro, OR 97124