



April 25, 2025

To the Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee:

Hello. My name is Ron Neumann, and I am the President & CEO of OCCU. We have been serving Oregonians since 1956, when a group of Oregon state employees pooled their funds together in a shoebox to ensure everyone had access to credit from a trusted source. Today, we bring our vision to Enrich Lives forward as we serve 185,337 Oregonians, your constituents, in nearly every community across our state. Our reach spans across the Pacific Northwest, as we serve an additional 66,701 members who reside in Washington and Idaho.

I would like to express my strong opposition to 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.

Credit unions play a vital role in providing affordable and accessible financial services to Oregonians, particularly in rural, underserved communities. Often these communities are facing the exit of financial services options as banks close their doors and leave the area and credit unions are often the only ones willing to keep services going. If credit unions are disincentivized from considering the purchase of bank assets, consumers may experience reduced access to services.

As not-for-profit member-owned financial cooperatives, credit unions exist to bring value to their members. In 2023, Oregon credit unions delivered **\$229 million in direct financial benefit** to the state's **2.3 million credit union members**. In banks, those funds would go to Wall Street profits instead of Oregon residents.

We believe this bill creates barriers to access to trusted financial services, instead of helping credit unions support more people and communities. There's no evidence that this bill will help our economy or bring significant new revenue to our state. In fact, from 2012 to 2024, there were 2,499 bank acquisitions by another bank, and 78 bank sales to a credit union. That's less than 4% of total bank acquisitions in the past 12 years. These are community-preserving acquisitions, not aggressive expansions.

We are confident that the passage of SB 781 will make it more difficult for credit unions to provide the financial guidance, monetary value, and community benefit we do so strongly today.

Please vote no on SB 781. Let's keep access to financial services equitable for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ron Neumann
OCCU President & CEO





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