

February 25, 2016

**Oregon Progressive Party
Position on Bill at 2016
Session of Oregon Legislature:**



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SB 1565A: Oppose

Dear Committee:

The Oregon Progressive Party (OPP) opposes SB 1565A, which allows local governments to grant huge property tax breaks to companies making investments of at least \$1 million -- far beyond the capability of small businesses.

This bill would allow local governments to favor larger businesses and stifle competition from smaller businesses that will not be getting any tax breaks. It also feeds the "pay-for-play" system, in which government can pick and choose which businesses shall receive government largess, and the businesses in turn can pick and choose which candidates to support for local office (and for the Legislature).

And while there is constant call for sufficient school funding, this bill will reduce property tax revenues available for schools, even though it provides schools with no say in whether the tax credits are granted. Instead, government bodies representing only 75% of "the total combined rate of taxation on the qualified property" can force the loss of revenue on the other 25% of government bodies.

Thank you.

Oregon Progressive Party

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