

From: [April Bailey](#)
To: [Public Comments](#)
Subject: EXTERNAL: Agenda Item #7 IGA with Clatsop and Columbia Counties for Tobacco Prevention
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 11:17:36 AM

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Tillamook Board of Commissioners of Tillamook County,

I am pleased to see that our county still thinks it is a priority to “reducing tobacco use” despite its full embrace of harmful substances. I find it interesting that the county in this agreement is concerned with vaping and E-cigarettes but does not seem concerned with harmful effects of smoking marijuana, especially as concerning minors.

I would like the commissioners to give the citizens of Tillamook County more information about this tobacco program. While I realize \$10,000 is not a large amount of funds for counties, the fact remains these funds will not go to other programs that citizens would prioritize higher, such as law enforcement and roads. This is especially true considering that the all of the current commissioners frequently lament that there is not enough funding for these most important priorities to the citizens of this county.

Here are some questions:

1. Concerning “shared strategies in this agreement,” does this include tobacco with less nicotine? Cigarette papers so smokers can roll their own? Inhalers for subsequent asthma that may ensue from smoking?
I ask because the county thinks it beneficial to provide heroin users with needles, so these supplies seem fitting for a similar tobacco prevention program.
2. Is there a particular reason this agreement singles out “Latino/a/x” persons as a population to be targeted? Are you more concerned with the damage smoking can do toward this community than the black community? Are there no “whites” that struggle with tobacco use in our county?
3. Why do you think it is to the tax payer’s benefit to have another employee (or advisory committee person) sit in bi-weekly meetings that have little to do with the governance or the priorities of well being in our county? Isn’t there a better way to utilize the county’s use of employee time, given that the county claims to be understaffed?

By and large, tobacco use has significantly decreased in our country. E-cigarettes and vaping are not the best health choice, but are far less harmful than obesity and overuse of medications. However, as far as many of your constituents are concerned crime, road conditions, and drugs/homelessness/mental health should be the focus of your attentions.

April Bailey
Neskowin, OR

From: [Rural Tillamook Businesses](#)
To: [Public Comments](#)
Subject: EXTERNAL: Public comment on 1/18/23 meeting Agenda Item 4, Non-Agenda Items
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 11:51:02 AM

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In the June 2022 meeting minutes and at the 12/19/22 EDC Board Meeting, Commissioner Bell and the Economic Development Council said their primary purpose for proposing a Rural Business License (Ordinance #88) was because they had no other way to get "a list" of businesses, as a matter of emergency. At the 12/19 EDC Board Meeting, when angry business owners asked why the EDC didn't get the list from the state, Commissioner Bell replied that the website only allowed you to look up one business at a time, and that it was impossible to get a list that way.

However, it only took us one week to email the Secretary of State and get the list. **The list that inspired the County to raise \$100,000 off the backs of a few hundred local businesses is in fact public information, maintained by the Secretary of State and available for free upon request.** We are in possession of the list ourselves.

Not only that, the representative we spoke to at the Secretary of State (SoS) is now very concerned that the County was unable to get these public records:

- Was the County/EDC denied access to public records by someone at the SoS? If so, the SoS wants to start an investigation.
- Or did the County/EDC never ask for the public records? If so, it is either incompetent or is liable for making misrepresentations to the public.

To get this straight: in over 20 years of economic development, the EDC never asked the Secretary of State for a list of businesses, nor established their own through research and community outreach.

It is clear that the EDC has become obsolete. It's not doing its own job, it does not provide value to businesses. This is self-evident by the lack of businesses who are willing to become paid members: even well-funded logging businesses have canceled their memberships.

We represent a group of Rural Tillamook Businesses who are calling for the dissolution of the EDC if it cannot fund itself and the end of the rural business license idea. Economic development should be supporting local businesses, not shutting them down.

Geoff and Valerie Franklin, Owners of Walnut Studiolo

For: Rural Tillamook Businesses

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