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## **Business groups oppose tax measure**

### **Portland Business Journal**

Four of the top state business organizations have split on four ballot measures they say would affect the competitiveness of Oregon companies.

Associated Oregon Industries, the Oregon Business Association, the Oregon Business Council and the Portland Business Alliance issued endorsements and opposition of the four statewide ballot measures this morning.

The groups jointly oppose Measure 59, which would allow taxpayers to deduct taxes they pay to the federal government from their Oregon tax returns. The measure would “deeply hurt basic services” funded by the state’s general fund, the groups wrote in a release.

“The measure increases pressure to raise taxes and fees on employers, reducing Oregon’s competitiveness and our ability to maintain and create jobs in an increasingly international marketplace,” the groups said.

The four business advocates will back Measure 57, which would increase prison terms for those convicted of specific drug and property crimes. However the groups oppose Measure 61, which would create mandatory minimum prison sentences for certain theft, identity theft, forgery, drug, and burglary crimes.

Measure 57 would provide “a more affordable and effective tool for decreasing drug and property crimes” while Measure 57 would increase the state’s cost by as much as \$274 million per year, the groups said.

The four groups further back Measure 65, which would create open primaries that would put the two top vote-getters in run-off elections regardless of their parties.

“This will encourage candidates to appeal to a broad voter base, producing a more balanced approach when focusing on solutions to the state’s most pressing issues,” the groups wrote.