



BAKER COUNTY TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR

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Marjorie Taylor  
Oregon Department of Revenue  
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Re: House Bill 4056 Recommendations and County Support

Dear Chair and Members of the Workgroup,

Baker County is providing a written response to the request from Representative Conrad to respond to the consumer group memo.

Baker County Tax Office supports the considerations other counties have put forward to address the consumer group memo. The following comments are presented in addition to those considerations already put forward by counties.

- Clear definitions of claimants and an articulation of required notices are important. The counties do not support a “due diligence” requirement that would obligate a county to locate all potential claimants. Baker County is particularly concerned with incurring liability for paying out a claim to a purported heir or devisee of a former property owner, only to later discover that there are more or different heirs or devisees that may or may not be entitled to a claim. What constitutes adequate proof of claim should be made clear in statute. Protections for county officials tasked with processing claims should be included, just as protections are given to county clerks for recording instruments. See ORS 205.130.
- Publication of required notices on a county website rather than a newspaper is preferable. Rural counties have recently experienced the closing of newspapers of general circulation, making it difficult to find effective ways to reach the public in print.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Traci Robinson  
Baker County Treasurer/Tax Collector