# Borderline Sin (Taxes) 

## The Border Tax Effect in the Pacific Northwest <br> Cigarettes, Liquor and Lottery

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## The Border Tax Effect

- Neighboring jurisdictions with different tax rates or structures
- Opportunity to impact consumer, firm and governmental behavior
- The larger the tax differential, typically, the larger the border effect


## Liquor

## Washington Privatized Liquor

Washington Retail Liquor Sales (Liters)


## Prices Much Higher in WA

Oregon - Washington Price Comparison

July 2012

|  | 750 ml | 1.75 L ** |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Oregon Avg Price | $\$ 24.83$ | $\$ 35.61$ |
| SW Washington Avg Price | $\$ 32.91$ | $\$ 44.83$ |
| Difference | $\mathbf{3 2 . 5 \%}$ | $\mathbf{2 5 . 9 \%}$ |

* Straight Average of 67 products found in 1 or more Vancouver area stores
* Straight Average of 53 products found in 1 or more Vancouver area stores

Liquor Store Sales, June - October 2012


## Cigarettes

## WA Policy Affects OR Sales

Cigarette Sales (Number of Packs)


## Video Lottery



## Summary

- Tax differentials, in addition to availability and selection, do affect consumer behavior
- Recent tax and regulatory policies in Washington are impacting Oregon sales of liquor and tobacco products
- Oregon's extensive Video Lottery system that includes line games is attracting out of state customers

