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For some reason, which I don't understand, it is verboten to ask corporations to pay more to support the communities in which they operate. Instead we allow, and even encourage corporations to pull money out of communities, leaving average Americans to pick up the bill for the public services corporations use which allow them to do business. The mantra for balancing our budget has been cut, cut, cut. Austerity has been sold as the means to stimulate the economy. By cutting benefits and curtailing public services you impede the flow of cash which is what keeps an economy going. Instead of cutting benefits to balance the budget -- the consequences of which are to hurt real people -- our legislators need to have the courage to raise revenue to cover the \$1.4 billion short fall by raising taxes on corporations. Corporations such as Nike, Intel and Genentech have all backed raising revenue. Even the Oregonian's editorial staff has recommended raising revenue. During the remaining session of the legislature, our legislators have a chance to do the right thing. As a teacher, I know that Oregon public schools can't survive more teacher layoffs and increased classroom size.

Politicians talk a good game about supporting education, but if they won't seriously consider raising revenue, then they are just talk. There is nothing wrong and everything right with asking corporations to pay more. Fear that they will leave the state is bogus. Nike and Intel are building so much in Washington County now, why would they abandon their investments? Fear of corporate prices hikes is also bogus. Fred Meyer and Comcast, for example, raise prices without threat of increased taxes.

I support HB 2830.

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