

**From:** [Jim Purvine](#)  
**To:** [LRO](#)  
**Subject:** Kicker Tax Refund Testimony  
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To Whom it May Concern:

This is yet another attempt by elected lawmakers (legislators elected by voters to be their voice and representation) to circumvent the will of the electorate. The voters of this state approved the Kicker Tax Refund in 1980, and in 1999, they enshrined it in the Oregon Constitution. To have a total disregard for their wishes, while in search of Band-Aids for a PERS-induced hemorrhaging economy, is unconscionable.

The Legislative Assembly and PERS board of trustees all need to have their crystal balls professionally polished and calibrated to avoid a repeat of the PERS Tier 1 and Tier 2 recklessness that occurred in 1979. It's kind of like overpaying for a shiny new boat in July, when you're making out the monthly check for it during a snowstorm in February – buyer's remorse tends to set in. Oregon has billions of dollars in unfunded PERS debt. The program's originators and gatekeepers should have been able to think farther ahead than the end of their public service term, and build in effective contingencies for economic downturns – after all, that's why the voters were paying them. Nevertheless, they didn't or they couldn't, so here we are. The people we send to Salem need to be the sharpest pencils in the box. If not, they're just an average person who has the money to mount an election campaign, and who's background can stand the scrutiny of today's exhaustive social media investigation.

The Kicker's origins can be traced back to California's Proposition 13 – one of the very few positive ideas this state has adopted from our southern neighbor. Now, even after the voters of this state have spoken, you're trying to get rid of it.

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