



Taxpayers Association of Oregon

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No on HB 3031

HB 3031 is another painful payroll tax on businesses and employees

Lawmakers should use existing state grants to businesses before raising taxes.

Currently, Oregon state government is giving our tax dollars to private businesses for private activities. We could eliminate tax credits for subsidizing Hollywood-style film companies. We could scale back the extremely generous \$600 Cultural Trust Art Tax Credit program (for which the art community already has four times the number of alternative government funding sources). There is also the Oregon Business Expansion Plan where the state pays big businesses to hire more workers.

These funds could be re-invested into a pilot program that awards the most vulnerable businesses payroll help for employees that are leaving for emergency circumstances. These grants could be based solely on the greatest need instead of creating a wide-open door social welfare program.

Think about it. Business Oregon already gives generous grants to companies that hire more employees. Is it not better to spend the same funds helping Oregon's smallest and most vulnerable businesses from losing an employee to an emergency than to give big businesses money to hire additional employees?

For the record, the Taxpayer Association opposes the policy of giving private companies tax dollars to conduct private activities. However, in light of another painful new tax, it is better for the State to begin eliminating and prioritizing its flawed business hand-outs than to create a new tax.