



## **HB 3328 - Reject targeted Income tax**

Testimony for the House Committee on Revenue – John Calhoun – 3.30.2021

Good afternoon chair Nathanson, Vice chairs Pham and Reschke and members of the Committee. My name is John Calhoun and I am here today representing Tax Fairness Oregon, a network of volunteers who support a rational and equitable tax code.

HB 3328 would create an addition to the state personal income tax and dedicate the funds collected to wildlife and outdoor Funds. We support the concerns of the proponents and the benefits of secured spending as laid out by Representative Brock Smith. Regardless of the worthiness of the request for increased and more stable funding for wildlife protection, conservation, and outdoor recreation, this bill sets a dangerous precedent.

If this is allowed to pass, every agency in the state that has legislators who support that agency will also try to carve out a permanent income tax targeted to support that agency.

Spending priorities are the domain of the Ways and Means Committee and the entire legislature and should stay there. Priorities change over time and the legislature as a whole should be able to respond to changes.

In addition, this bill also gives a tax credit against the tax increase for the purchase of tags and licenses pursuant to wildlife laws. So, the broader public would now subsidize the activities of a few.

We urge you to let this bill die in committee.