

Submitter: William Burt
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Human Services
Measure: HB4079

This bill should have been submitted to Oregonians for a vote. I am vehemently opposed to it. Oregonians have made it crystal clear repeatedly that we don't want a sales tax in any amount for any reason or purpose whatsoever. Yet, Democrats keep trying to force a sales tax on us, despite the fact that only California and Minnesota have higher income tax rates than Oregon does. That's a rather dubious distinction. And let's not forget that Oregon's government is #4 for spending per capita in the U.S.

To add insult to injury, this atrocious bill is being proposed during the worst pandemic of our lifetime, inflation is skyrocketing, and most people in this state are struggling financially. Yet, our coffers are already flush with cash. Why not spend some of that surplus to help people down on their luck, if legislators are so inclined? We certainly don't need another pilot program to eat up taxpayer dollars.

Giving away free (tax) money to anyone is a terrible idea, morally and economically. After all, nothing is ever "free." Oregon's taxpayers will be on the hook to pay for this boondoggle. Meanwhile, out-of-state people will flock to Oregon, which already has a reputation for being "the welfare state." (The Atlantic calls Oregon a "Welfare Utopia.") More freebies will simply depress our economy further. What we really need is for more people to go to work and become taxpayers; jobs are plentiful right now, thanks to the extended unemployment benefits that have erased any incentive to work.

Even worse, big corporations and Hollywood film producers enjoy all sorts of obscene tax breaks. Why not rescind some of those breaks instead of extorting more money from taxpayers?

And if this bill passes, it will be much easier to increase the rate in subsequent years, which would most certainly happen.

Please ensure that HB 4079 dies in committee.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

William Burt