

Submitter: Shannon Molden
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Human Services
Measure: HB4079

No sales Tax! As a lifelong Oregonian, I am dismayed at the way taxpayer money has been squandered by the legislature. A proposed "Luxury Tax" is discriminatory and unnecessary. As an Oregon taxpayer, I have repeatedly witnessed tax payer money that was once designated for one service, moved to another. A new sales tax only opens the door for more items to be taxed. Oregon's budget is currently fourth in the nation, while the state's population places us at 27th in the US. More spending is not needed.

Oregon taxpayers and businesses have already endured 2 years of crippling restrictions, with many businesses closing. Restaurant patronage is down as much as 62% in some areas and many more are expected to close. Fuel prices have sky rocked which affects all Oregonians and are crippling those who are trying to make a decent living. To take money from those who are working and giving it to those who are not, is disheartening and a slap in the face to those of us who are struggling to stay afloat.

Oregon cities with large populations, have created the large homeless populations they have and giving these folks free money only perpetuates the problem. Please name me one tax payer supported program that has not expanded. And where do we go from here? What will have a sales tax tagged on it once the program expands, which it will?

Paying people who do nothing to contribute to society is a very bad practice. While I have sympathy for their situation, I feel no compunction to financially support them, nor should the taxpayers of Oregon. Major cities who allowed homelessness to flourish need to pick up the tab. Those city governments were elected by their voters, so let their voters pay for it. The rest of state taxpayers should not bear the burden. Who gets to decide what is "luxury" and what isn't? Who decides where and to whom this money goes? As homeless people have multiple issues, which problem they have will get them a stipend? Who will decide this and how will this be done? Once people get "free" money, many more will proclaim the same problem and it will create an endless problem of homelessness and poverty, further increasing the burden to taxpayers. Essentially, the proposal will only increase poverty.

If the idea of this tax is to decrease theft crimes, I would suggest increasing policing instead of buying criminals off with monthly payments of 750 dollars. It should be noted that policing in Portland, Salem and Eugene has been suppressed, politicized and demoralizing to those officers that daily put themselves on the line. Police departments have been gutted by these policies thus contributing even more to criminal activity by the impoverished.

I suggest that the legislature look for another way to manage homelessness in the state. There is causation to this and what ever issues have caused this can be

rectified by the local population, not legislators who are far removed from the problem and/or choose to only adhere to ideas that have little to do with causation. Emotions and feelings have no place in public policy, only non-politicized data should be used.

Little of that is currently happening at the state level at this time, especially with adding another tax to take our hard earned money and give it to others.

If you all feel the need for more money, I suggest you look to the large businesses who obtain major tax breaks in the state. You know, the ones who donate heavily to PAC's and your campaigns.

The tax payers in major cities with the homeless problems don't want to solve the problems they created, so they look to the rest of the state to solve the mess they have made for themselves. Send this back to those areas to solve and leave the rest of us out of it. NO MORE TAXES.