

Written Testimony in Opposition to Governor Kotek's Tax Proposal

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding Governor Kotek's proposal to raise taxes and fees, which is projected to cost Oregonians an estimated \$5 billion over the next ten years. I urge you to reject this plan.

Oregonians are already struggling with high housing costs, rising grocery prices, and record inflation. Adding billions in new taxes and fees will not only make life more expensive for families, but it will also drive businesses and jobs out of our state. We cannot afford policies that punish hard-working taxpayers while doing little to address Oregon's most pressing challenges.

Before turning to new taxes, our state should prioritize accountability and fiscal responsibility. Oregon's budget has grown dramatically in recent years, yet we continue to face crises in public safety, homelessness, healthcare, and education. It is clear that more money is not the solution—better management, efficiency, and accountability are. Taxpayers deserve to see results from the dollars they already send to Salem.

This proposal threatens to undermine Oregon's competitiveness, discourage investment, and erode trust in government. At a time when families and small businesses are tightening their belts, the state should do the same.

I respectfully urge you to say NO to Governor Kotek's tax and fee increases. Instead, let us focus on real solutions that make Oregon more affordable, strengthen our communities, and ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely and effectively.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted, Colene Hoyt, Dayton