

Submitter: Paul Howard
On Behalf Of: A state budget to protect Oregonians
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, and members of the committee,

As you build the state budget, we call on you to reject any new Oregon tax breaks for corporations or the ultra-wealthy, and to invest in Oregon families.

While uncertainty exists at a federal level, Oregon has reserves. I urge you to prepare for any coming economic downturn or federal funding reductions by doing what we know works to keep families stable: strategically investing in our communities and giving Oregonians more opportunities to thrive, and not handing new tax cuts to corporations and the wealthy.

In the last 26 years I have noticed too many times where bigger chain businesses that fill the same needs as smaller local businesses have moved into towns, gotten reduced taxes, free water and sewage hookup and other advantages Not-given to the smaller already existing businesses. Next, they artificially drop their prices since they are part of a chain, drive the local business out of business and still have the lower tax rate and other 'deal sweeteners' that the city, county or state gave to that chain store corporation to move to that town but then lose out on tax revenue. Another problem is big chains staffing the majority of positions as part time with no benefits so the workers in that town become slowly more impoverished. Walmart was (still is?) a prime example of that behavior. All the while, the tax base is still lost so that decreases funding for schools, after-school programs, parks, road maintenance, water and sewage maintenance, and other parts of the infrastructure become under-funded. The last thing we need as a city, county, state and nation are all the stupid federal job cuts Trump is making and even worse, then giving tax breaks to the wealthy who have much more disposable income than the majority of citizens doing most of the work. Trump is a sham, let's not follow his bad example.

Please prioritize a state budget which protects Oregonians rather than adding to the chaos.

Thank you,
Paul Howard