

Submitter: rob lee
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3962

Rob Lee
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5/7/2025

The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Revenue, Oregon Legislative Assembly [Committee Address]

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing as a concerned constituent from Wilsonville, Oregon, to express my opposition to House Bill 3962 in its current form. I understand that the measure directs the Legislative Revenue Officer to study issues of local taxation and to report its findings to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly by December 1, 2026. While I appreciate the objective of examining fiscal challenges, I believe that this bill poses several serious concerns for our local communities.

First, the bill risks imposing an unnecessary administrative burden. Mandating an additional study diverts valuable state resources and attention that could be directed toward addressing immediate fiscal challenges. Local governments are already tasked with managing taxation matters based on firsthand knowledge of their unique economic conditions. Adding another layer of bureaucratic oversight may lead to redundancy without producing clear, actionable benefits.

Second, I am concerned about the potential erosion of local autonomy. Local taxation policies should be the domain of community decision-makers who understand the distinct needs and priorities of their areas. By centralizing the study of local taxation at the state level, HB3962 could inadvertently undermine the ability of local governments to craft policies that best respond to their constituents' needs, thereby stifling innovative, locally tailored solutions.

Lastly, the timeline for this study poses a delay in implementing practical fiscal solutions. While the proposal aims to generate recommendations for future legislation, there is a significant risk that valuable time and effort will be consumed by the study process. In doing so, opportunities to implement prompt and effective measures may be lost—measures that could have an immediate positive impact on local communities by addressing fiscal imbalance as it arises.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to vote against House Bill 3962 as currently written. I encourage you to consider alternative approaches that empower local governments directly, preserve their decision-making authority, and focus on timely, pragmatic solutions to the fiscal challenges facing our communities.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our state. I trust that you will carefully weigh these concerns in your deliberations on this matter.

Sincerely,

Rob Lee