

Submitter: Amber Martin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4125

I support keeping the Oregon Kicker refund and oppose diverting it to state spending.

The Kicker exists because the state collected more money than it said it needed. That surplus belongs to the taxpayers—not the government. Returning it enforces fiscal discipline and prevents lawmakers from treating over-collection as a blank check.

Oregonians are already facing high taxes, inflation, housing costs, and utility bills. Families know how to manage their own money better than the state does. This is especially true given Oregon's long record of financial mismanagement, including the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). Decades of poor planning and unrealistic assumptions created massive liabilities that taxpayers are now expected to cover. That mismanagement is not a reason to keep taxpayer refunds.

If the state needs more money, it should reform broken systems like PERS and live within its means. The Kicker should be respected and returned to the people as intended.