

Submitter: Ramsay Weit
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4125

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters, and Committee Members,

I write in support of HB 4125 as a practical and overdue approach to "reforming the kicker."

No matter the context, the kicker has historically been the third rail for decision-makers facing the wrath of the public at the mention of change. At the same time, many of those folks are impatient with the failure of "government" to address issues like the I5 bridge, mounting losses at PERS, and chronically underfunded human services, such as child care and mental health treatment beds. HB 4125 provides the opportunity to deliver on these expectations and bring enhanced accuracy to the projections determining the scale of the kicker.

DAS and DOR have a nearly impossible job as it is to accurately come to one number. Providing both a low and high number within a range presents a more realistic approach, acknowledging the unforeseeable out there. It provides decision-makers with deeper data to support their deliberation on budgets and determining where to land on the range. That enhanced environment for deliberation alone would be justification for enacting HB4125.

Committing the "delta dollars" to defined uses both limits what some fear as potential "wild government spending" and offers substantial resources for the Legislature to address existing legal obligations and make investments in physical and human infrastructure. These uses could have a more immediate and visible impact than salting the surplus into reserves.

HB4125 is a well-conceived effort to bring more accuracy to the kicker projection exercise and brings with it the opportunity to make critical investments in Oregon's priorities.

I urge your support for HB4125.

Thank you for your work.

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