

Submitter: Michael Cooke

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4125

I am adamantly opposed to this blatant money grab by our legislature and our governor! Please vote "NO" on this bill.

The Oregon kicker is composed of excess income taxes that were incorrectly and inaccurately charged to Oregonians. Many Oregonians today are struggling just to put food on the table and to afford healthcare for their families. Surely those taxpayers deserve to receive back any tax over-payment that they might have made to the state! For many it is a lifeline that they can rely upon in difficult financial times. For some it could mean the difference between life and death.

Obviously that excess tax money belongs to taxpaying Oregonians, not to the State of Oregon! By law, Oregonians have no choice but to contribute their fair share of taxes to Oregon. And rightfully so. We must fund our government somehow.

Therefore, taxes are necessary. But, no matter how lofty a cause, Oregonians should not have to pay extra taxes above and beyond what is legally required of them just because our inept leadership in Salem is unable to prioritize and budget appropriately. We Oregonians expect leadership in Salem; not covert graft and dishonesty to make up for gross negligence! This bill makes a mockery of the legislative budgeting process.

Any excess taxes collected by Oregon do not belong to the State of Oregon. That is a fact! Those excess funds belong to those overtaxed Oregonians who have overpaid them. They are not a governmental slush fund to be used to fill in functional budgeting gaps that our legislature cannot or will not fully finance. Yet that is precisely what this bill would establish: a slush fund!

This pecuniary bill is nothing less than an outright misuse of Oregonians' taxes by a clueless and greedy legislature. Every single legislative member who votes for this travesty of a bill, regardless of party affiliation, should be ashamed of themselves.

None are worthy of the office that they hold. Each should be held accountable by the voters of Oregon for their misguided "YES" vote. That will be the right, the ethical, the democratic thing to do. Each of them should be removed from office in the very next election in which they are a candidate. They will have already proven themselves unworthy of any Oregonian's vote. There should be consequences for anyone supporting this covert misappropriation of Oregonians' taxes! Oregonians deserve far better representation than we are currently getting in Salem. Stop the Steal! Thank you for your "NO" vote on this bill!

Respectfully submitted,

Michael R. Cooke