



**ERIC ZIMMERMAN
PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 4**

February 2, 2026

House Committee on Revenue
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 4125 – Revenue Forecast Modernization Act

Chair Nathanson, Vice Chairs Walters and Reschke, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 4125, which presents a reasonable approach to modernizing Oregon's economic and revenue forecasting practices.

As a longtime public servant and Chair of the Portland City Council's Finance Committee, I appreciate both the value of accurate economic and revenue forecasting and the difficulty of the task. Forecasting is equal parts science and judgment, and HB 4125 will help bring greater clarity and transparency to a process that underpins nearly every major fiscal decision made by the legislature, as well as important information used by local governments across the state.

This bill establishes clearer and more consistent standards for how revenue estimates are prepared. At the same time, it does not change voter intent. Rather, it improves the accuracy and reliability of the forecasts that are used to set the State's budget while providing a more coherent approach when different forecasting methodologies yield materially different outcomes.


Recent economic and revenue forecasts have made clear that Oregon is facing fiscal challenges. During the 2026 legislative session, lawmakers will be tasked with rebalancing the 2025–27 budget, including difficult decisions that could result in cuts to programs that Oregonians depend on. At the same time, the state is bound to return surplus revenue to taxpayers, a benefit that disproportionately accrues to the wealthiest Oregonians. This juxtaposition exposes a fundamental weakness in our budgeting framework that demands attention.

HB 4125 represents a reasonable step toward improving forecast accuracy while reducing the likelihood that inaccurate assumptions may trigger outsized surplus returns when resources are urgently needed. In most years, this approach will help create modest reserves that can be used for emergencies, debt reduction, or avoiding new borrowing. In That is at its core fiscal responsibility.

While this measure will not retroactively help to address financial challenges this biennium, it offers a practical, forward-looking solution to reduce future volatility.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support of HB 4125.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Zimmerman', with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

Eric Zimmerman
Portland City Council, District 4
Chair, Portland City Council Finance Committee