

To: House Committee on Revenue

From: John Wood, The Dalles

Date: February 4, 2026

Subject: Formal Opposition to House Bill 4125

To the Members of the House Committee on Revenue,

I am writing to you today to voice my strong opposition to House Bill 4125. As a resident of The Dalles and a concerned Oregonian, I believe this legislation moves our state in the wrong direction regarding fiscal responsibility and taxpayer rights.

My opposition is rooted in the long-standing and essential history of Oregon's revenue forecasting and "kicker" process. For decades, our state has relied on a system that ensures when revenue forecasts are over-inflated and the government collects more than it projected, those surplus funds are returned to the over-burdened taxpayers who provided them. This mechanism serves as a vital check on government spending and ensures that the state does not indefinitely retain wealth that belongs to its citizens.

The importance of returning these funds cannot be overstated for the following reasons:

1. **Economic Stimulus:** Returning surplus tax dollars directly to citizens is one of the most effective ways to bolster our local economies. When Oregonians have more of their own money, they spend it at local businesses, invest in their communities, and drive economic growth from the ground up rather than from the top down.
2. **Relief for Over-Taxed Citizens:** Oregonians are already among the most heavily taxed citizens in the country. In an era of rising costs for housing, utilities, and basic necessities, these returned funds are often the difference between a family breaking even or falling behind. It is a matter of fairness; if the government collects more than it said it needed, that money should go back to the people.
3. **Fiscal Accountability:** The current system incentivizes more accurate forecasting. Removing or altering the return of these funds reduces the pressure on state agencies to be precise and creates a "slush fund" environment that encourages expanded government programs rather than efficient management of existing resources.

I urge the committee to respect the will of the taxpayers and the historical precedent that has protected Oregonians' pocketbooks for years. Please vote "No" on House Bill 4125 and keep our state's promise to return surplus revenue to the people.

Humbly,

John Wood The Dalles, Oregon