

Submitter:

Joseph Tjaarda

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4125

Dear Committee members,

I am writing in opposition to HB4125 which prescribes that we change the way kicker tax refund is calculated. This bill attempts to reduce the number of Oregonians eligible to receive their tax dollars returned to them. Many families rely on the kicker to get back some of the money they paid into the system; they use that money to pay down debt or purchase goods that stimulate the economy. I understand that Oregon has high expenses and a PERS system that is quickly becoming insolvent. However, the PERS would be doing fine if Tobias Reed had listened to his investment consultants instead of pursuing political interests that has endangered the retirement system. In addition, Oregon is one of the most taxed states in the nation but dollar for dollar we receive significantly less in terms of services received and infrastructure maintained. Oregon ranks towards the bottom in terms of business friendliness; long time Oregon based businesses have found homes in other lower taxed states. Oregon spends like a significantly larger state while having one half to one third the population of larger states. I would encourage the committee to instead focus on tightening the belt of the state, finding redundancies, and process improvements that will allow our tax dollars to go further. I understand this may upset some political donors but the reality is that regardless of whether you raise taxes; unless spending is curbed Oregon will always need more revenue.

I ask you to oppose HB4125 or rewrite it to be a proposal to cut government spending

Thank you,

Joe Tjaarda