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On Behalf Of: MCAT  
Committee: House Committee On Revenue  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4125

Testimony for kicker bill HB 4125

We need to pass HB 4125. Oregon faces a very difficult fiscal period of time over the next few years. Our state can not afford to continue to send by large amount of money to wealthy taxpayers. This is based on requiring the Treasurer to predict far ahead how much revenue to expect. When that estimate is financially prudent but low, we lose. The system needs to be modernized.

Our state agencies are facing major cuts due to decreasing revenue coming into the state. How can we keep our air clean, our drinking water safe, our working lands resilient especially in the face of climate change if our natural resource agencies are not fully funded.

This bill will increase the accuracy, reliability and predictability of the forecast. By setting optimistic and pessimistic forecasts, the kicker can be tied to the optimistic number and budget planning to the pessimistic number. If there is revenue above the pessimistic number, that would be used for urgent needs that had not been budgeted.

Since 66% of kicker money has gone to the top 20% of taxpayers - those who don't need it - it really hasn't helped the average Oregonian. Reducing the frequency and amount of kicker will help ease the terrible budget situation, while still returning money to the people when there truly is a banner year of revenue.

Thank you for all your work on behalf of Oregonians!

My name is Rand Schenck. I am the Forestry and Natural Lands. Lead for MCAT. We are a community of experienced volunteers who help steward significant greenhouse gas reduction policy into state law and advocate for an expanding green economy here in Oregon