

Submitter: Reuben Hines
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1507

Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Reuben, and I am an Oregon resident and have been my whole life. I am writing in strong opposition to Senate Bill 1507.

Oregon residents already shoulder one of the highest personal income tax burdens in the nation. For decades, the state has relied heavily on income taxes to fund public services, and working families, small business owners, and retirees alike are feeling the strain of that reliance. Any proposal that layers an additional broad-based tax—such as a sales tax—on top of an already high income tax structure risks pushing Oregon's tax burden beyond what its residents can reasonably afford.

A sales tax would disproportionately harm low- and middle-income Oregonians. Unlike income taxes, sales taxes are inherently regressive, taking a larger share of income from those who earn the least. Essentials such as household goods, clothing, and everyday necessities would become more expensive overnight, effectively reducing purchasing power for families who are already struggling with inflation, housing costs, and rising utility bills.

Implementing a sales tax would also undermine one of Oregon's long-standing economic advantages. The absence of a sales tax has historically helped attract consumers, businesses, and tourism, particularly in border communities. Introducing a sales tax risks driving spending across state lines or online, harming local retailers and small businesses that operate on thin margins.

Moreover, adding a sales tax does not address the underlying issue of how state revenues are managed. Before asking Oregonians to pay more, the Legislature should prioritize accountability, efficiency, and responsible stewardship of existing tax dollars. Expanding the tax base without meaningful reform risks eroding public trust and placing additional pressure on households that are already overtaxed.

Oregonians value fairness, transparency, and economic opportunity. SB 1507 moves the state in the opposite direction by increasing the overall tax burden and disproportionately impacting those least able to absorb higher costs.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Legislature to reject SB 1507.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Reuben Hines
Beaverton Oregon