

Submitter: Trevor Smith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4125

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice Chairs Reschke and Walters, and Members of the House Revenue Committee,

I am writing as an Oregon voter to urge your support for HB 4125, which would modernize our state's kicker law by improving the methodology used for revenue estimates.

I support HB 4125 for several reasons:

- Smarter fiscal planning. The bill would prescribe more rigorous methodology for revenue estimates, reducing the wild swings that result from comparing actual revenues to outdated forecasts. Better forecasting means better budgeting.
- Addressing urgent priorities. The bill establishes the One-Time Emergencies and Finance Fund, which could help Oregon respond to wildfires, reduce the PERS unfunded liability, and stabilize funding for essential services—all without eliminating the kicker entirely.
- Protecting our long-term interests. While individual kicker payments are meaningful, they pale in comparison to the collective cost of underfunded schools, inadequate wildfire response, and mounting pension debt. A middle-income taxpayer such as myself might benefit from a \$800 check, but we all pay when our communities burn or our children attend overcrowded classrooms.
- Fiscal responsibility. With federal funding increasingly uncertain and Oregon facing budget shortfalls, modernizing the kicker represents prudent governance—not a tax increase, but a smarter use of surplus revenues.

The current kicker disproportionately benefits higher-income taxpayers while starving our state of resources needed for wildfire prevention, education, and infrastructure.

HB 4125 offers a balanced path forward.

I respectfully urge you to vote yes on HB 4125 and advance it for further consideration.

Sincerely,  
Trevor Smith