



# City of Portland

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## City Councilor, District 3 Angelita Morillo

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February 4, 2026

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters, and members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 4125 because I believe deeply that our State budget should meet the real needs of Oregonians.

For years, Oregon's budgeting system has prioritized rigid formulas over common sense, resulting in a cycle where billions of public dollars are kicked back out of the state – often to the wealthiest Oregonians who need it least – while our communities are told there is not enough funding for essential services. HB 4125 offers a clear alternative. Let's stop kicking Oregon's tax dollars back out the door and instead invest them where they belong: in our schools, Medicaid, housing, wildfire prevention, and other critical public needs.

As a local elected official, I see firsthand the consequences of budget instability and missed opportunities. We are forced to plan around uncertainty while classrooms are overcrowded, people struggle to access health care, and communities brace for increasingly severe wildfire seasons. These are not abstract policy choices. They are daily realities for the people we serve.

HB 4125 modernizes Oregon's revenue forecasting and budgeting approach so we can smooth volatility and make smarter, longer-term investments. It recognizes that a stable, predictable budget allows governments at every level to plan ahead, spend more efficiently, and deliver better outcomes.

Importantly, budget stability is also an equity issue. When revenue swings force sudden cuts, it's always the same communities – low-income families, people with disabilities, seniors, and communities of color – who are hit first and hardest. By keeping public dollars invested in public goods rather than outsized rebates, HB 4125 helps ensure that Oregon can meet its obligations consistently and fairly.

This bill is pragmatic, forward-looking, and grounded in the reality that Oregon's challenges will not be solved by short-term windfalls or crisis-driven budgeting. HB 4125 helps align our fiscal system with our shared responsibility to care for one another and to invest in the future of this state. I urge the Committee to support HB 4125.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Angelita Morillo*