

Submitter: Jon Wright
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4125

House Bill 4125 undermines Oregon's longstanding and voter-approved surplus revenue refund process by quietly shifting money that would otherwise be returned to taxpayers into a newly created state fund. While framed as a technical change to revenue forecasting, the bill effectively manipulates the assumptions used in surplus calculations to reduce or eliminate the "kicker," weakening an important fiscal check on government growth and eroding public trust in the budgeting process.

By mandating the use of more conservative forecasting methodologies and then capturing the difference between competing estimates, HB 4125 allows the state to retain funds that would otherwise be credited back to taxpayers. This approach bypasses the spirit and intent of Oregon's surplus refund "kicker" system, replacing transparency and predictability with accounting mechanisms that favor government retention over taxpayer relief - all without voter approval.

I oppose HB 4125 because I believe Oregonians deserve honest forecasting, not politically-driven estimates designed to produce a preferred outcome. The bill sets a troubling precedent by using technical changes to achieve what could not be achieved directly: reducing refunds owed to taxpayers. For these reasons, I believe HB 4125 should be rejected in defense of fiscal accountability, taxpayer rights, and respect for Oregon voters.