

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

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tara McLaughlin. I am a 20-year hairstylist, a salon owner, an employer, and a lifelong Oregon taxpayer. I am submitting testimony today in fierce opposition to SB1507 and its amendments.

Let me be direct: This bill is a perfect example of government overreach disguised as “reform.”

What started as a retail sales tax concept has now morphed — behind closed doors and before the public could meaningfully respond — into a bill that strips small businesses of federal tax credits that we have EARNED.

Removing the sales tax was not a victory. It was a distraction.

The real harm is buried in Amendments 4 and 5, which sever Oregon businesses from federal tax benefits designed specifically to help us survive.

This is not tax policy — this is a targeted attack on the backbone of Oregon’s local economy.

The beauty and personal-care industry alone represents thousands of small shops, largely women-owned, that provide essential personal services and employ tens of thousands of Oregonians. We already carry one of the heaviest tax burdens in the nation:

- State income tax
- TriMet transit tax
- Statewide transit tax
- Paid Leave Oregon
- Workers’ comp increases
- Minimum wage hikes
- Employer mandates
- And now an attempt to block federal credits every other state allows?

Oregon leaders cannot continue burdening the same people who show up every day, keep storefronts open, employ local families, and pay the taxes that fund this state.

Disconnecting us from federal tax credits is not “closing loopholes.” It is a tax increase — plain and simple.

Small businesses are not the problem.
We are not the ones mismanaging billions.
We are not the ones ignoring the state's budgeting failures, PERS liabilities, or irresponsible spending.

Yet we're the ones you continually squeeze.

Why should small businesses pay the price for the government's inability to budget responsibly?

Why should we lose access to federal programs everyone else in the country can utilize?

Why is Oregon so comfortable pushing its small businesses to the brink?

At some point, the message becomes clear: Oregon does not value its small businesses — it exploits them.

I employ Oregonians. I pay Oregon taxes.

I contribute to my local economy.

I do everything the state asks — and then more.

And yet, bills like SB1507 send one message:

“Give us more. We'll give you nothing back.”

Let me be very clear:

My business — and many others — cannot survive if this bill moves forward.

You will see closures.

You will see layoffs.

You will see people leave this state in frustration, and you will only have yourselves to thank.

SB1507 should be withdrawn immediately. Not amended. Not softened. Removed.

Do not disconnect us from federal benefits we already qualify for.

Do not punish the very businesses that fuel Oregon's economic engine.

Do not pretend this bill helps anyone other than the state's own bottom line.

Vote NO on SB1507.

Restore trust.

Stop balancing the state's financial failures on the backs of small businesses.

Respectfully,

Tara McLaughlin

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