

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

I strongly oppose this measure because people just can't handle another tax in Oregon. We are already one of the highest taxed states in the nation. People are struggling right now just to get by, and we are forced to live within our means. This state does not handle the money it receives from its taxpayers, and definitely does not live within its budget, as we are expected to do. Spending \$75,000 on a zoo party for TriMet and their employees is not a good use of our tax dollars, nor is \$550 for concert tickets for the governor and her friends. I'd like to know why the taxpayers are paying for her concert tickets and movie tickets? The Oregon Energy Trust spent \$26,500 on a Christmas party and an employee retirement party. Or what about the Portland City agencies of water, transportation, Public Works and parks that spent just under \$12,000 on a city Employee Appreciation Party featuring a talent show and therapy goats? These don't sound like a good use of our tax dollars either. Or what about the 3 million that was awarded as a state Grant to support festivals Portland? What about the \$200,000 that governor Kotek spent hiring a consulting firm for a one-day mental health conference that basically featured her spouse? It only had 28 guests, costing taxpayers over \$7,000 per guest. Another example is \$10 million of taxpayer funds received as a grant for the James Beard food court, which is delayed and over budget by millions, much like the Ritz-Carlton which only lasted one year before it went bankrupt. Or what about ODOT hiding a 7 billion dollar mistake? The list goes on and on. Isn't it enough that Governor Kotek has driven many large corporations out of our state, as well as many residents who are fleeing to more welcoming States that are more affordable to live in? If Oregon would stop spending ridiculous amounts of money on things like these examples, as well as on programs for non-citizens and enabling drug addicts by giving them free drug supplies, this state wouldn't be in such a contendrum as to needing more funds. Their priorities are all wrong! End the madness on the taxes, oregonians have had enough!