

Written Testimony in Opposition to SB 1507

To: Senate Interim Committee on Finance and Revenue

Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 1507

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Timber**, and I am a resident of **Boring**, Oregon. I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to **Senate Bill 1507**.

This bill is built around a major policy shift: it would reduce certain taxes only if Oregon adopts a **statewide retail sales tax of at least 3%**. In other words, SB 1507 is part of a push toward creating a statewide sales tax system.

I strongly oppose this because **having both a state income tax and a statewide sales tax is excessive, unfair, and unnecessary**.

Oregon already has one of the highest income tax burdens

Oregonians already pay significant state income taxes. Most working people feel that burden every paycheck. Adding a statewide sales tax on top of that means families would be taxed twice—once when they earn their money, and again when they spend it.

That is not tax reform. That is piling on.

A sales tax would punish people just for living their lives

A statewide sales tax would raise the cost of nearly everything: household necessities, school supplies, clothing, personal care items, and everyday services. Even if the tax rate sounds “small,” it adds up quickly over the course of a month or a year.

A family trying to survive on tight wages doesn’t have the option to stop buying what they need. A sales tax doesn’t just tax luxury spending—it taxes daily life.

It creates a system where working people pay more, while the wealthy can avoid the impact

The more money you make, the easier it is to save, invest, or spend outside normal taxable goods. But working families spend nearly all of their income on necessities. That means the burden of a sales tax falls hardest on the people least able to afford it.

A sales tax combined with an income tax becomes a double hit to the same group of people: workers, renters, seniors on fixed incomes, and families raising kids.

SB 1507 moves Oregon in the wrong direction

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SB 1507 should not be used as a stepping stone to establish a statewide sales tax. Oregon voters have rejected sales taxes repeatedly for good reason. A sales tax is not a modern solution—it is a costly new burden layered on top of an income tax system that already takes a significant share of working people's wages.

Conclusion

Oregon should not create a system where residents pay high income taxes **and** a statewide sales tax. That approach is unreasonable and will hurt working families the most.

For these reasons, I urge you to **vote NO on SB 1507**.

Respectfully submitted,

Timber G.