

Submitter: Tammy Carpenter
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1507
TO: Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
RE: Support for SB 1507

Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tammy Carpenter and I serve on the Beaverton School Board. I am writing to you today on my own behalf,

We are living through an era of wealth and income inequality that we haven't seen since the age of the robber barons. We are coasting on the fumes of The New Deal – an era when America built things, invested in people, AND had a top marginal tax rate of 90%.

I always find it funny when our elected leaders are afraid of raising taxes on the uber-wealthy and corporations. They are rarely afraid of raising money on working families – witness the looming gas tax and the likely sales tax. But our elected leaders quake in their boots when the uber-rich say they will leave the state if we raise their taxes – newsflash... they don't. Multinational corporations threaten to move their operations to a more "business-friendly" state. This does happen occasionally but it doesn't always last – witness Tesla moving much of its operations back to California. And even when we continue to give tax breaks to these giant corporations, it doesn't prevent endless rounds of layoffs nor the precarity of employees that manage to maintain their jobs (for now).

SB 1507 is just a band-aid on a severed artery. I am a physician but you don't need to be a physician to know that we need surgery. We need surgery on our revenue system, on our budget process, on our leadership. Remember COVID, remember the Great Recession, remember Bill Clinton's NAFTA, remember when Reagan broke the PATCO strike. These are downturns that have been crippling the working class for my entire life.

We need to return to a New Deal Era. An era where a family can live in dignity off of one good union job. An era where wealthy people and corporations pay into a society that in return provides roads and libraries and public schools to educate the children of their employees who will in turn also become their (educated) employees.

Disconnecting from Trump's Crush-the-working-class Bill, and closing tax loopholes that let the richest Americans steal money from hard-working people seems like a

pretty easy choice. So, let's start with SB 1507 and then let's get to work on next steps to protect everyday Oregonians from the rigged system that continues to make the rich richer and the poor poorer.

Sincerely,

Tammy Carpenter
Beaverton School Board Director