

Testimony submitted by: LaJuana Decker
Committee: Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
Measure: SB 1507

Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane, and Members of the Committee on Finance and Revenue,

I am asking you to please vote no on SB 1507.

It is past time for the Oregon Legislature to realize that Oregon taxpayers—both individuals and businesses—have been stretched to the breaking point by excessive taxation, runaway inflation during the post-Covid years, and the revelation of fraud and waste of taxpayers' money by governmental and non-governmental organizations. This bill would be less of an affront if Oregon taxpayers had seen their tax money invested in making the state more prosperous, better educated, cleaner, healthier, more beautiful, and a better place to live. As evidenced by the numbers of businesses and long-time Oregonians fleeing the state and crediting oppressive taxes, regulations, and plummeting quality of life, this is far from the case.

Uncoupling Oregon taxes from the federal tax relief passed by the U.S. Congress last year will do several things:

- *First, SB 1507 as written would hamstring Oregon businesses, hobbling their ability to compete with businesses in other states. More businesses would flee, which would mean fewer jobs for Oregonians, which would result in lower tax revenues, which would push the Legislature to try to raise taxes again. The well-intentioned tax credit for creating jobs in the -5 amendment is ripe for grifting, introducing further potential corruption in the use of taxpayers' dollars.

- *Second, SB 1507 introduces further complexities to the tax code. Give this bill and its amendments to an Oregon public high school graduate and see if they can explain it.

- *Third, SB 1507 would steal from already-squeezed, working middle class Oregonians the tax relief meant to ease the financial burdens they have faced in recent years, with runaway inflation in the cost of food, homes, heating, prescription drugs, medical care, insurance, property taxes, and almost all essentials.

- *Finally, SB 1507 would also exacerbate the frustration, anger, and mistrust fomenting in Oregonians toward their elected officials in Salem, who seem out of touch and unconcerned about spending more and more of the money taxpayers need to survive, only to watch Oregon's quality of life sink to the bottom of all fifty states in category after category. These are not just statistics and news articles to most long-time Oregonians; they see and feel the decline acutely.

Taxpayers have trimmed their budgets to the bleeding point; it's time for the Oregon legislature to do the same. Cut spending. Please vote NO on SB 1507.

Respectfully submitted,
LaJuana Decker