

Chair Nathanson, Vice Chair Reschke, Vice Chair Walters and members of the committee,

I am writing in opposition of SB 1507. I know there have been lots of figures thrown at you in passionate testimony. Some were inflated, some twisted to prove a point and some factual. You have been inundated with public testimony, written testimony and conversations in the halls. SB 1507 is written in a complex language with multiple pieces to it. I would challenge the majority of testifiers to really explain the bill and not just regurgitate the provided talking points. However, as I listened to some of the public testimony, it became very simple. There are two ideologies in deciding the fate of this action.

Much of the testimony in support of SB 1507 was based on social programs, educational support, welfare help, and government handouts. I would agree that most came from a truly passionate and concerned point of view and job security. Some of the testimony was based on misunderstanding at best and some on complete mistruths. As an example, the SNAP reductions are only for able bodied adults that are completely capable of either getting a job or at least volunteering in some capacity. That fact gets lost in the arguments. Almost all of the testimony in favor of SB 1507 was proponents asking for and preserving government money generated from tax dollars.

The testimony in opposition was from business owners and citizens who are generating dollars and therefore paying taxes. Most all of the citizens testifying in support of SB 1507 were asking from a stance of wanting programs that require taxes to support them. I understand the dynamics of their wants. The point that is missing is that these programs need a strong, thriving business sector in order to preserve them. SB 1507 does just the opposite. Whether you agree with HR1 or not you cannot deny the fact that the purpose of this part of it is to stimulate and encourage growth in the business sector. Most prevalent is the bonus depreciation that is critical in business. I heard many times that the bonus depreciation is only benefitting the wealthy. Nothing could be further from the truth. Small and medium size businesses need this deduction to modernize, upgrade, replace and improve efficiency within their business. It is counted on and needed. The business climate is struggling in Oregon. Our taxes are high, regulations are strangling and business has not been a priority.

So the two ideologies here are this; do we want a state that is business friendly, thriving, and encouraging to the citizens, or do we want a state that is heavily dependent on government handouts and burdensome taxes? It is apparent that we can't have both. If we want to build business, provide jobs, stimulate housing growth, keep our communities alive and create an atmosphere of excitement then HB 1507 should be opposed and stopped. If we want a tax structure that can provide for the education we cherish, the programs to help those that need them most and to be able to meet the challenges of human society then we need to make sure our business sector is strong and inviting. SB 1507 should be opposed and not allowed to proceed.

Please think about the long term outlook for our state and oppose SB 1507.

Thank you,  
Cheryl Martin