

05 April 2021

To: Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

Re: Senate Bill 842—Letter in Support of Passage

Dear Chair Senator Burdick, Vice-Chair Senator Boquist, and members of the Committee:

I am not familiar with Oregon's tax code, and for that I am grateful. If I were, it may indicate that I had gone over to *the Dark Side*. Sort of like the old saw, "there are some people, that if they liked me, I would think less of myself." I do however know where to get help with deciphering the tax code and I do pay taxes annually, and on time.

I am told the Oregon Legislative Revenue Office reports have estimated the State of Oregon, not the citizens of Oregon, will receive around \$300 million (as its cut) from taxing those Economic Impact Payments doled out to many of us over the last year. Payments intended to help us. Not the state. The state of Oregon often considers that "lost revenue." I see it however as a gain. Money kept in the pockets of the citizenry. Where it should be. Especially in this case. Especially during these times.

I've also heard that should the state, in its benevolence, decide to reimburse that amount of tax paid on the additional income provided by said Economic Impact Payments, it would do so in the form of a tax credit.

Senate Bill 842 has a much more practical and better idea; reimbursing those responsible citizens who've already paid their taxes by issuing checks directly to them for the amount in question. Money in hand is, as we all know, better than that proverbial bird in the bushes.

It is difficult to believe procedural rules or whatever the argument is would prohibit this. Particularly in light of the governor's penchant for issuing Executive Orders, ruling by decree as it were. Could she not simply say, "So be it." Problem solved. Seems to work for so many other things.

I urge the Committee to pass this bill. It is the right thing to do. And Oregonians do not need the state skimming off our Economic Impact Payment funds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Wisner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard Wisner