

Submitter: Mark Pledger

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure: SB502

I strongly oppose this bill! The current inequitable proposal of robbing the taxpaying citizenry of the “kicker” is the wrong way of going about funding wildfire mitigation. The role of our state governmental body is to identify and prioritize around what is most important to the collective citizenry and plan/budget accordingly. If you need funding look to the many non-sustainable bills and programs on the books already that are limited in scope and benefit the few. Just like sensible and responsible households do... managing within their means.

As stated by others... the personal kicker provides accountability to ensure that the government of the State of Oregon spends taxpayers money wisely and acts in the best interest of its citizens. The current proposal lacks equity as the amount of tax paid into the system varies significantly between taxpayers. So when refunding surplus money, this refund should be done in an equitable manner based on the proportional amount of money paid into the system by each taxpayer. Setting a fixed amount to refund per taxpayer is creating a welfare system of income redistribution which should not be the intent of the taxation system and is systemically inequitable. The money should be returned to the people that paid it, not re-distributed out to those who did not.