

Submitter: Leah Sinclair

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure: SB140

I am in opposition of these SBs. As a native Oregonian, and a long time tax payer, like many others in this state, we have seen fraud, waste, abuse and bad investments of our tax dollars. At some point the legislature will have to learn to live within its means and stop trying to dig into the pockets of the taxpayers who already pay their share.

I hear talk of the need for yet more money for special interests groups, yet the Education Stability Fund and the Oregon Rainy Day Fund have over a billion dollars between them, beyond the biannual budget. Corporations have already sacrificed their refunds for the education fund, yet there is still need for more. It is disconcerting when the people are asked to pass levy requests made from schools when the Education fund is supposed to be assisting with those needs. Where is all of the money going?

I do remember when Oregonians voted in the lottery. The proceeds were to go directly toward schools and education, yet somehow, like many of the other revenue generating schemes voted in by Oregonians, end up not going where they were originally promised. This was one of the reasons why the kicker was written into existence and why a 2/3 majority vote was required so that bills like these couldn't take away from refunds rightfully due to the taxpayer.

Oregonians pay a fair share in taxes, more than most states and yet are still very generous people. It's time that some relief goes back to them, and the legislature learns to be a bit more conservative and better stewards of their money.