

07 June 2023

Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures

Re: House Bill 2071

Dear Co-Chairs Senators Meek and Nathanson, Co-Vice Chairs Senators Boquist, Reschke and Walters, and members of the Committee:

It is good to review Oregon income tax from time to time, so it was pleasing to hear HB 2071 would require another study of personal income taxation. I'd like to assume that the study will show Oregonians are already being sufficiently taxed and the findings eventually submitted to committees of the Legislative Assembly will recommend reducing our personal income taxes.

Unfortunately, (as I'm sure you'll agree) the chances of that happening are close to zero. Or less.

Bills such as these make me nervous. Regardless of what my assumption may be my expectation is that the findings will show that, without a doubt, increasing personal income tax is the only solution for the state's fiscal woes, whatever they happen to be at the time.

Personally, after paying income taxes in Oregon for 58 years, I cannot recall a single time they've ever been lowered. I think most people who work for a living, rather than vote for living, would agree that we're way overdue for some tax lowering for a change.

Sincerely,

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

Richard Wisner