



Oregon Women's Rights Coalition

SB 55 – Research and Development Tax Credits- Oppose

Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Boquist and Members of the Committee

Since 2001, the Oregon Women's Rights Coalition has spent considerable time following the actions in the Legislative Revenue Committees. We understand that if there is not sufficient revenue to fund programs that will advance Oregonians and make us competitive, Oregon will have problems in the future.

We have spent many hours evaluating Tax Credits and giveaways.

We do not support this bill. We were in the room on April 2, 2015 during the hearing that you heard former Representative Barnhart discuss. We heard John Calhoun's testimony.

Since 1990, the Oregon Legislature has not addressed the elephant in the room. Measure 5/47/50 created havoc with not only the state budget, but also with local governments budgets.

For the state budget, the immediate impact of flipping the percentage of state income tax dollars was felt by the college and university system. They have never fully recovered.

“Much of the early 1990s was spent trying to recover from the single largest budget reduction since 1929. The UO faced staggering budget cuts and ultimately eliminated twenty-two degree programs and 200 faculty positions to save some \$10 million and cope with the devastating effects of Measure 5.1.

Similar cuts happened across the Oregon University System. By 2001, funding at the U of O by the state had dwindled from 40% to 12%.

So the question remains, do you give even more generous tax breaks to corporations who will do research and development anyway, or do you do all in your power to create a better future for Oregon, and it's college and university students.

I propose that rather than research and development tax credits, you spend more on Oregon Opportunity grants so more of Oregon's students can become our educated citizens of tomorrow.

Marcia Kelley,

Public Policy Advocate

1. <https://newpartnership.uoregon.edu/history/index.html>