

18 February 2023

Senate Committee on Labor and Business

Re: Senate Bill 853

Dear Chair Senator Taylor, Vice-Chair Senator Bonhomie and members Hansell, Jama and Patterson;

The ever-lengthening list of people, in this case state employees, getting a free ride (pun intended) has to stop somewhere. This particular 'perk' needs to come to an end during this legislative session. I'm supposing it was only through pure luck that this practice has come to light.

Aside from the individuals benefiting from this policy there is no empirical data or evidence supporting the policy of paying travel costs for Oregon state employees who choose to live out of state. Nor is there any evidence that this policy is beneficial to tax-payers residing in the state.

Furthermore, anyone will be hard put to come up with a valid, convincing argument to continue this practice. It's time has come.

I think that, like myself, many tax-paying Oregonians are getting fed up with practices such as this.

No more free rides. (And this can be said for other state practices as well.)

I urge the Committee to pass this bill.

Sincerely,

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

Richard Wisner