

## I OPPOSE [HB 3349].

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB3349/Introduced>

### Staff Measure Summary:

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/268587>

Regional Solutions have been around for approximately nine (9) years. Regional Solutions is funded out of "Lottery" dollars and is located within the Office of the Governor.

[HB 3349] is designed to promote expansion of Regional Solutions to include the following entities.

[HB 3349] states,

"Establishes regional solutions infrastructure director within Regional Solutions Program.

Establishes Infrastructure Council. Describes duties of council.

Establishes Interagency Infrastructure Coordination Committee.

Establishes Community Infrastructure Assistance Program within Oregon Business Development Department to provide grants for priority infrastructure projects.

Establishes Community Infrastructure Fund."

My opinion, Regional Solutions should have never been created. The cost of the Regional Solutions program and now the purposed expansion is a continuum of wasted taxpayer dollars. The cost of the expansion to fund the aforementioned entities is unknown. Where have we seen this playbook before?

It is reasonable to revile at the expenditures of taxpayer monies for Regional Solutions and purposed expansion. The entire program utilizes taxpayer revenues that could be used to benefit the state instead of turning money over to Counties to fund harebrained economic development gambits and or contracts for political gain.

A little background information is hereby tendered. Regional Solutions purpose for existence is to dole out "Lottery" dollars to Counties for Economic Development. In Yamhill County where I reside, the money for economic development was shunted off to SEDCOR [Strategic Economic Development Corporation]. I opposed the aforementioned relationship from the start. Finally, after several years, the Yamhill County Commissioners gave SEDCOR the boot and canceled their contract.

### **Yamhill County should be considered the flagship of wasted Regional Solutions Lottery money disbursements.**

One such disbursement of [\$25,000.00] was to fund a flour-grinding mill to make flour from grains. The flour was then to be used to make bakery related items- fresh breads, et cetera. The Yamhill County Commissioners authorized the disbursement and even "joked about possible conflicts of interests" for they had tasted samples of the bread and liked it.

When talk of selling the baked goods escalated into a possible sit-down establishment an adjoining neighbor objected and threatened to file suit. The applicant, not wanting to face litigation, turned-tail and formally withdrew the application for the "bakery." What happened to the [\$25,000.00]? I do not know. The issue was not publically posted. Maybe the money was returned or maybe not. Accountability?

Moral of the story, at each juncture, Regional Solutions-Yamhill County-SEDCOR there are administrative costs eating up precious taxpayer dollars. Expanding Regional Solutions only worsens the waste.

### **Why not pay down state indebtedness using Funds designated for Regional Solutions and its' bastard progeny?**

**What is the total Housing and Community Services Department's debt?**

[SB 5511 (2023) Section 5]



<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB5511/Introduced>

**The Debt Service alone is [\$155,800,792.00] taken out of this session's GENERAL FUND.**

David S. Wall  
Mr. Oregon Concurs.