

Submitter: Teresa Roberts  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure: SB5506

Dear Joint Ways & Means Committee of Oregon,

I urge you to invest in our communities now instead of putting more money into reserves.

The Budget Framework currently leaves out critical community-centered investments and policies that Oregonians need now. With historic levels saved—over \$2 billion—we have the means to rise to the challenges of the day.

We need investments that help families recover from stagnant wages since last century, relieved just in time for rent hikes by out-of-state corporate take-over of our private properties and housing.

Oregon should be owned and regulated by Oregonians, not by out-of-state and foreign corporate investors intent on making the rich richer and the poor poorer. I'm 70 and I've watched my generation sit by idly and allow our federal government to become corrupt. I've lived in four states in the Union, and only in Oregon have I found a pronounced difference between Democrats (for the people, by the people) and Republicans (for the rich, by the extremely wealthy).

We've preserved our public beaches, we've raised the minimum wage, we exist as a model of equitable democracy without oppression. But we do not own our homes and businesses to the extent required for a healthy economy.

We need to help our rural farmers and our stgglng families. We need to be kinder to our women and children, who've taken a back seat to testosterone-driven policies across this country for far too long. And we need to treat our minority and BIPOC neighbors as equals.

I know I'll never vote Republican again this lifetime, despite having been raised one. And I won't hide in the Green Party where no one gets elected. I'm all in as a Democrat at age 70, as are our adult children, and as will my grandchildren. Out extended family around the state is joining us. Oregon for the people! Not for corporate take-over.

Our kids need the stability of established neighborhoods owned by its members who invest in its welfare, not corporations who only care about Wall Street and avoid paying taxes like DJT taught them.

Oregon families cannot wait any longer for investments in our communities and in the future of our state. We must prepare now for any future economic downturn by investing in what gives our communities the opportunity to thrive and reduce demand for services in the future.

Sincerely,  
Teresa Roberts