

Submitter: Rebekah Levitt

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural
Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3856

I strongly oppose any proposal to raise Oregon's income tax. As a resident earning just over \$125,000, I am already subject to one of the highest income tax rates in the country — 9.9%. Oregon's progressive tax system disproportionately impacts middle- and upper-middle-income earners like myself who are striving to support families and maintain a modest quality of life. Unlike many other states, Oregon does not have a sales tax, which means the state relies heavily on taxing our income — leaving little room for working families to get ahead. Despite paying thousands in state taxes each year, we continue to see underfunded public services and growing frustration over where that money is going.

When I received a promotion at work, I was proud of the progress I'd made in my career — but instead of being rewarded, I felt punished by the tax system. Crossing the \$125,000 income threshold pushed me into the top marginal bracket, where a significant portion of every additional dollar I earn goes straight to the state. It's discouraging to work harder, take on more responsibility, and provide for my family, only to have the financial gains diminished by excessive taxation. Many Oregonians are already leaving the state in search of better economic opportunities and lower tax burdens — I believe increasing income tax will only accelerate that trend and harm the state's long-term stability.