

SB 1177 (and HB 3947) Kicker Estimate Increase - SUPPORT

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

I am a small woodland owner located in the foothills of the coastal range. We have twice been threatened by wildfires and are grateful for the quick response from several local fire departments. These wildfires across the state can be expected every year now due to the wind and severe drought conditions brought on by our climate emergency. It is absolutely vital that the state come up with enough money to pay for wildfire suppression and fire prevention in advance to avoid Emergency session funding and loans while waiting for federal reimbursements. Since the Wildfire Cost Committee came up with just a handful of various revenue-raising ideas that were inadequate, including a bottle recycling increase that was highly controversial, this bill offers an elegant and far better solution with a minimum of pain to taxpayers. This bill increases the one-time revenue forecast estimate for the 23-25 biennium to a higher threshold (\$24 billion) to reduce the size of this year's anticipated \$1.73 billion kicker return. Only the interest in the fund would be used each biennium. Taxpayers might still get a sizeable tax credit, but this bill would reduce the total credit amount, thereby saving revenue for the state to use towards a dedicated fund for future wildfire costs and mitigation efforts.

I think this a brilliant and simple solution to one of the biggest problems the state faces. I urge you to support SB 1177 (and HB 3947).

Josie Kohne

Small Woodland owner

Gaston, OR