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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1102

Democrats! Can you please do something to make electricity less expensive, especially for seniors?! We Boomers Vote! We'll vote you out!

Drazan shared in a news release, seniors now outnumber children in Oregon for the first time since 2023, making up 19.6 percent of the state's population. The rising costs of healthcare, utilities, and property taxes are among the fastest-growing expenses for older Oregonians. In 2022, Oregon's healthcare costs surged by 49 percent, while Medicare expenses increased by 57.5 percent. "Our seniors need help," Rep. Drazan said. "Legislative spending needs to reflect the needs of our communities.

Oregon's aging population adds another layer of complexity. Oregon has one of the highest median ages of any state in the nation. With fewer working-age residents contributing to tax revenues and more people leaving the state for more affordable places to live, the state faces long-term fiscal challenges.

A recent January poll revealed that 79% of Oregonians favor cutting taxes to make Oregon more affordable, and 70% favor eliminating state income taxes on tips and overtime pay. The same poll showed that 56% of Oregonians say that taxes are too high. Oregon ranks as the 10th most expensive state to live in, with the 5th highest individual income tax rate. Only California, Hawaii, New York and New Jersey have higher individual income tax rates.

A recent University of Oregon study found that Oregon's tax burden is by far the most commonly offered incentive for out-of-state businesses to recruit Oregon workers.