

Submitter: Laurie kimmell
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

April 16, 2025

TO; The Joint Committee on Ways and Means and Committee Members

ATTENTION: Co- Chair Lieberman, Sanchez and Members of the Committee

FROM: Laurie Kimmell, MSgt, USAF (Ret.)

SUBJECT: HB 5006

1. I am in opposition of HB 5006.
2. Oregon needs to stop being like California. Every time California has a problem, they throw cash, invent a new tax instead of solving the problem/ Example: there is a homeless problem in Oregon give away 22 k free new tents, 5.5 million free needles a year, 99k crack-pipes foils, (subsidized pot, free junk food), forgetting to fund wildfires so there had to be an emergency session rather than solve the problem like forest mitigation. Money is being thrown at the problem instead of dealing with the problem. The cost is being put on the backs of hardworking Oregonians. Be a problem solver instead of a tax collector.
3. Here is one of the problems. General Fund Revenues should augment just funding maintenance of Oregon State Highways, bridges, and tunnels. ODOT is top heavy in management. They cut service that affects every day Oregonians like snow removal on Oregon roads/highways so that there will be public outcry consequently; ODOT will get more money, Perhaps, ODOT should concentrate on maintaining roads, bridges, and tunnels as well as, prioritize the large projects instead levying tolls and higher taxes. . Presently, TriMet is receiving more investment dollars to serve less than 1% of the incidents of travel generated in their service area. This proposed increase in payroll tax to fund transit, is just flushing that money down the drain, with no benefit to Oregonians.
4. Oregonians rank # 3 in nation as the poorest due to high taxes (18% more in personal income tax, than the national avg, a 3% property increase which puts the trajectory on the backs of Oregonians, CAT tax which shrinks personal income. The Oregon State government is ranked fourth biggest in the nation by per capita

spending. Oregon has more tax cash than 46 other states. When is a true audit going to be done on the budget? When are Oregon's problems going to be solved instead of throwing more cash at the problem?

Sincerely,

LAURIE KIMMELL, MSgt, USAF (Ret.)