

Joint Committee for Ways and Means

April 18, 2025

Subject: HB 5006

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Sisters, Oregon

I would like to thank the Chairs, Co-Chairs and members of this joint committee. I would have liked to testify, but there were more individuals representing just a few groups that seemed to manipulate the time allotment.

First off I would encourage this joint committee to resist the temptation to just throw Oregon Taxpayer Dollars at a problem without a plan for its use or provide money to groups for a local special project or facility, that does not help the entire state. It is very easy to ask for money from the legislature, because it is only numbers on a computer screen without any budget or limitations. It is a different story, when it comes out of an individual or family wallet or checkbook, where there is a limit on how much you can spend. If the Oregon legislature could run the state budget like they do their own finances, we would have a balanced budget and probably a surplus. Yet, I am a realist, and I know the temptation, or the desire is to please as many specialty groups as possible even when it requires raising new taxes, it's only taxpayer dollars!

I believe we should learn to live within our means, Oregon is number 30 for highest taxes and it is not a race to become number one, it would be much better to be number 50! Allocating and prioritizing funding is the key to success, everyone will argue their priority is greater than the next request for funds. I would encourage you to review these requests carefully and instead of spending millions on a pickleball facility for a single community, unless your prepared to do so for every community college in the state, I would prefer those millions be used for homeless veterans housing and then homeless housing for those that just need a helping hand not a monthly stipend so they do not have to work.

Please consider the Oregon Taxpayer who has to pay taxes and not waste our hard-earned tax dollars.

Thank you