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On Behalf Of:

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The Oregon Kicker, a unique rebate mechanism that returns surplus state revenue to taxpayers, stands as a symbol of fiscal accountability and citizen empowerment in Oregon. The recent proposal to divert these funds toward forest management, bypassing direct citizen benefit, has sparked considerable debate and concern.

One of the fundamental issues with this proposal is the absence of direct voter input. In a state that prides itself on democratic participation, the decision to reallocate taxpayer refunds without a public vote undermines the principles of transparency and civic engagement. It raises critical questions about the respect for taxpayer rights and the role of government in financial stewardship.

Critics argue that Oregon's fiscal management, particularly under prolonged Democratic leadership, has faced challenges. Concerns include budgetary inefficiencies, escalating costs in public services, and underperformance in areas such as housing and urban development. The suggestion to redirect the Kicker funds is seen by some as a symptom of broader fiscal mismanagement, where instead of addressing underlying budgetary issues, the state seeks to tap into funds meant to return to the people.

Furthermore, while forest management is undeniably important, the approach to funding such initiatives deserves scrutiny. Redirecting the Kicker without voter approval not only sets a concerning precedent but also overlooks alternative funding strategies that do not infringe upon taxpayer rebates.

In conclusion, the proposal to allocate Oregon Kicker funds to forest management without a public vote raises significant concerns about fiscal responsibility, democratic processes, and government accountability. It underscores the need for transparent governance and respect for the mechanisms that safeguard taxpayer interests in Oregon.