

Submitter: Gerald Freeman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4125

HB 4125 makes formula changes to Oregon's Kicker Law that effectively reduce surplus funds being returned to taxpayers who overpaid. This is our money. The state should not be allowed to take it from us through technical workarounds.

The Taxpayers Association of Oregon opposes this approach, and for good reason. Oregonians have been clear: they value the kicker. In 2020, voters passed Measure 86 with 62% approval, placing the kicker into the Oregon Constitution. That was an explicit statement of voter intent — when the state collects more than it needs, the excess belongs to taxpayers.

Oregon is not broke. Oregon is among the top per-capita spending states in the nation, with more money to address its challenges than over 40 other states. Yet we are told refunds must be reduced while the state spends:

\$10 million on a Portland food court

\$50 million on Hollywood-style film tax credits

Tens of millions subsidizing luxury hotels

Tens of millions on EV subsidies

At the same time, audit reports continue to show massive waste, mismanagement, and near-billion-dollar failures across state agencies. The problem is not lack of revenue — the problem is spending discipline and accountability.

HB 4125 avoids an honest conversation with voters and instead uses forecasting mechanics to keep money that should be returned to the people who earned it. That undermines trust and disregards voter-approved constitutional protections.

If the Legislature wants to change the kicker, it should ask voters directly — not quietly take their money through formula changes.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote NO on HB 4125.