

Submitter: Javier Sodo

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR201

I strongly oppose SJR 201.

Oregon's kicker exists for a simple reason: when the state collects far more revenue than projected, that money belongs back to the taxpayers who earned it. The kicker is not a slush fund for lawmakers to redirect whenever spending priorities exceed expectations. It is a constitutional safeguard designed to protect taxpayers from over-collection.

Diverting half of the personal kicker—even for purposes like K-12 education, community colleges, or wildfire prevention—undermines the principle behind the refund. If the state needs more funding for core services, the appropriate solution is honest budgeting and prioritization during the regular legislative process, not retroactively keeping surplus tax collections.

Many Oregonians rely on their kicker refund to offset rising costs of housing, groceries, fuel, insurance, and utilities. For some families, it is not a bonus—it is financial breathing room. Reducing the kicker shifts more financial power to Salem while taking it away from working families and small businesses.

If revenue forecasts are consistently exceeding expectations, that signals the need for better revenue projections or tax reform—not weakening taxpayer protections embedded in the Constitution.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose SJR 201 and preserve the full kicker for Oregon taxpayers