



February 18, 2026

BOARD OFFICERS:

2026 CHAIR:

CARMELLE BIELENBERG
Albany Area Chamber

CHAIR ELECT:

ELI MATTHEWS
The Chamber of
Medford/Jackson County

SECRETARY/TREASURER:

LISA FARQUHARSON
The Dalles Area Chamber

PAST CHAIR:

TOM HOFFERT
Salem Area Chamber

**BOARD MEMBERS AT
LARGE:**

ALICIA BERMES
Beaverton Area Chamber

MEGAN DE SALVO
Tigard Area Chamber

BETTINA HANNIGAN
Florence Area Chamber

TERRY HOPKINS
Grants Pass & Josephine
County Chamber

VONNIE MIKKELSEN
Springfield Area
Chamber

JOHN OLSON
McMinnville Area
Chamber

JIM PAINO
Cannon Beach Chamber

Dear Chair Broadman and Members of the Senate Committee on Finance & Revenue,

The Oregon State Chamber of Commerce (OSCC) **opposes SJR 201**.

The OSCC represents over 80 local chambers of commerce statewide. These chambers represent local business communities from every corner of the state that are the backbone of their local communities and provide the goods, services, jobs, taxes and charitable efforts that fuel our economy.

OSCC opposes SJR 201 for two primary reasons:

1. Oregon's income tax burden is already exceedingly high. The average Oregonian pays a marginal tax rate of 8.75%, which on its own is one of the top seven highest rates in the nation. Added to this income tax is both a Paid Family Leave tax of 0.6% and a statewide transit tax of 0.1%, which pushes the average tax rate to nearly 9.5%.

Oregon's top income tax rate is at 9.9% - and not only does it include the additional family leave and transit tax which push the effective rate up to 10.6% – it is also not indexed for inflation, meaning more Oregonians and small businesses have the privilege of paying the top rate every year.

2. The 2% kicker law has been an effective functional constraint on the growth of state spending. Over the past decade, the kicker has refunded \$11 billion back to Oregonians. During this same time, Oregon's biennial general fund still increased by 100% - from \$19 billion to \$39 billion.

The \$11 billion in kicker refunds is a valuable growth constraint that does not incur roll-up costs or require taxpayers to continue to sustain it with a declining tax base. If you believe Oregon state government is not affordable now, how affordable would it be if it included an additional \$11 billion in baseline spending? The kicker is valuable in maintaining any semblance of affordability of Oregon state government.

Please table SJR 201. The bill is tone deaf to the realities of Oregonians who are poised to reject a 6-cent gas tax due to real affordability concerns and due to the legislature so easily discarding the overwhelming sentiment of everyday Oregonians who strongly cautioned the legislature not to pass the tax. Making government more expensive is a poor policy choice for a state in economic decline.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "JL Wilson".

JL Wilson
Legislative Counsel