

Submitter: Stacie Camou

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR201

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I am writing in strong opposition to SJR 201, which proposes changing the way Oregon's Kicker is used.

The Kicker exists for a clear reason: when the state collects more revenue than forecasted, that surplus belongs to the taxpayers who earned it. It is not an error in the system, it is a safeguard built into Oregon law to ensure accountability and prevent government overspending. Changing how the Kicker is distributed undermines that accountability.

The Kicker is not a "bonus" from the state. It is over-collected revenue returned to the people. Families across Oregon budget with the understanding that if the state collects significantly more than expected, that money will come back to them. For many households, especially during periods of high inflation and rising costs of living, that refund helps cover groceries, rent, utilities, childcare, and savings.

SJR 201 shifts the focus away from fiscal discipline and toward government retention of surplus funds. If the state consistently finds itself needing more revenue, the honest solution is to propose transparent budget reforms or revenue adjustments and allow voters to decide. Redirecting or restructuring the Kicker through legislative action feels like moving the goalposts after the game has already been played.

Oregonians value the Kicker because it enforces restraint. It forces the legislature to budget carefully and live within its means, just as families must do. Weakening or altering this mechanism removes one of the few built-in checks on state spending. If changes to the Kicker are truly necessary, those changes should be referred directly to the voters for full transparency and public approval. This is a foundational part of Oregon's fiscal identity and should not be reshaped without broad public consent.

I respectfully urge you to oppose SJR 201 and preserve the integrity of the Kicker system as it was intended, a return of surplus funds to the taxpayers who paid them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Stacie Camou

Beaverton, Oregon