

Submitter: Catherine Camp

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR201

Subject/Title: Strongly Oppose SJR 201 – Do Not Redirect the Taxpayer Kicker

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

I am writing as a resident of Portland, Oregon, to strongly oppose SJR 201. This proposal is ridiculous and amounts to nothing more than government overreach and “kicker theft” from hardworking Oregon taxpayers.

The kicker refund is not “surplus” state money—it’s our money, overpaid in taxes due to revenue forecasts that were too low. Oregon voters deliberately put this refund mechanism into the Constitution in 1980 to ensure excess collections are returned automatically, not hoarded or redirected by politicians.

SJR 201 would amend the Constitution to divert half (or more) of large kickers to K-12 education, community colleges, and wildfire efforts once a threshold is met. While those are worthy causes, funding them should come through the normal budget process—not by raiding a taxpayer protection enshrined in our Constitution. If lawmakers believe this change is needed, let voters decide first without legislative preemption.

Redirecting the kicker sets a dangerous precedent: What’s next? More thresholds, more carve-outs, until the refund disappears entirely? Oregonians already pay some of the highest taxes in the nation—don’t take away one of the few automatic relief valves we have.

I urge you to vote NO on SJR 201 and preserve the full kicker refund for taxpayers. Thank you for considering my opposition.

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