

Submitter: Robert Camp
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR201

Subject/Title: Strongly Oppose SJR 201 – Hands Off Our Kicker Refund

Dear Senators on the Finance and Revenue Committee,

As a Portland resident and taxpayer in the same household as others voicing opposition, I am writing to firmly oppose SJR 201. This measure is an outrageous attempt to chip away at one of the few real taxpayer protections we have in Oregon. The “kicker” isn’t extra cash sitting in state coffers—it’s overpaid taxes that Oregonians were forced to front because revenue projections were off. Voters wisely embedded this automatic refund in our Constitution back in 1980 precisely to prevent politicians from treating surplus revenue as their own slush fund.

SJR 201 seeks to rewrite that rule so that, above a certain threshold, half (or potentially more) of the kicker gets siphoned off for education, community colleges, and wildfire programs. Those priorities matter, but they should be funded through transparent budgeting and appropriations—not by raiding a voter-approved refund mechanism. If this change is truly worthwhile, put it straight to the voters without lawmakers trying to tilt the scales first.

Allowing this sets a slippery slope: Introduce one “worthy cause” carve-out today, and tomorrow there could be more thresholds, more exceptions, until the kicker refund becomes meaningless. Oregon families already face high taxes and living costs—don’t erode this automatic relief that helps with bills, savings, or unexpected expenses.

Please reject SJR 201 and keep the full kicker refund intact for the taxpayers who earned it. Thank you for reading my testimony and for upholding the will of Oregon voters.

Sincerely,

Robert Camp
13378 NW Keeton Park Lane
Portland, OR 97229

Keetonpark@yahoo.com