

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

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brittany Burnham and I am a constituent from Halsey, Oregon (ZIP code 97348). I am writing in strong opposition to SJR 201.

I am part of a single-income household raising and homeschooling our children in rural Linn County. Like many families in our community, we budget carefully every month to cover basic living expenses that continue to rise, groceries, fuel, utilities, insurance, and housing. The personal kicker is not extra money to us. It is the margin that allows us to catch up, stay current, and prepare for the unexpected.

The kicker represents something important: when the state collects more than it projected, that money is returned to the taxpayers who earned it. For our family, that refund goes directly back into the local economy and into essential needs. It helps us pay for educational materials, rising energy costs, vehicle repairs, and other necessities that come with living in a rural area where costs are higher and options are fewer.

SJR 201 changes the purpose of the kicker from a taxpayer protection into a funding mechanism for ongoing government programs. While education and wildfire preparedness are important, those priorities should be addressed through transparent budgeting and responsible spending, not by permanently redirecting a refund that families rely on to stay afloat.

For households like mine, this is not about politics. It is about stability and trust. The kicker is one of the few predictable financial returns we receive, and removing or reducing it shifts the burden onto working families who are already making difficult financial decisions.

I am also concerned about the long-term precedent of altering a voter-established taxpayer protection rather than asking the state to live within its means and prioritize existing revenue.

Please do not move SJR 201 forward.

Respectfully,
Brittany Burnham
Halsey, Oregon

ZIP 97348