



SB 1177 – Kicker funds for wildfire

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue – Jody Wisner – 4.7.2025

Chair Meek, Vice-Chair McLane, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jody Wisner, and I am speaking for Tax Fairness Oregon, a network of volunteers who advocate a rational and equitable tax code.

The uptick in destructive wildfires in recent years and the demands they have made on the General Fund to pay for fighting them, along with the devastating destruction of whole communities and the terrifying impacts on individual lives makes it clear: Oregon needs to be better prepared for wildfires. We need funds both to decrease their damage by paying for community risk reduction and to pay for the costs associated with fighting fires when they happen.

This bill and its companion in the House are the best approach we have to actually set aside funds for these costs. It's likely not enough, but it is a good start.

Hopefully the years of dramatically large kickers are coming to an end. This may be your last chance to use this mechanism to responsibly prepare for wildfires without dramatically reducing the funds available for other state services.

It seems that if you're willing to find \$1.4 billion for a baseball stadium in Portland, you should be willing to find \$1.7 billion for those living in rural Oregon at risk of wildfires. The kicker money is just as much "found" as the baseball money.

We urge you to pass this bill and do the work needed to convince your colleagues to cast votes to pass it on both sides of the building.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

We read the bills and follow the money