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Better Government. Better Results. Stronger Oregon.

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Budget Breakdown

By Ross Day, Executive Director

Yesterday the realities of Oregon's poor economy once again smacked politicians in the face when the state economist announced that Oregon's income tax revenues would be approximately \$562 million dollars less than originally anticipated for the 2009-2011 budget biennium. The President of the Oregon State Senate actually expressed surprise at the fact that Oregon's economy is failing to produce income tax revenue for the state of Oregon.

If you have heard it once, you have heard it a thousand times from Common Sense For Oregon – the state of Oregon has a spending problem, not a revenue problem. The five Golden Fleece Awards that have already been announced are prime examples of how government – at all levels – inappropriately spends our tax dollars.

That is why for most Oregonians it does not come as a surprise that Oregon's state budget now has a half-billion dollar hole in it. Had the politicians in Salem focused their

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efforts in 2009 on getting the government out of the way of the private sector, so the private sector could create more private-sector jobs, which in turn means more private sector taxpayers, which in turn means more private sector taxpayers, perhaps Oregon would not be in such a deep budgetary hole.

Instead, the Oregon Legislature focused its efforts on raising taxes on individuals and small businesses (ostensibly to increase the quality of state services like education), increasing regulations on small businesses (the main source of new, private sector jobs), and creating more government jobs which require more taxes (paid by private sector jobs that are becoming more scarce in Oregon's economy).

This cycle the state of Oregon is in is simply not sustainable. Until the politicians in Salem wake up and realize this undeniable fact, the politicians should expect more "surprises" like the one they got yesterday.

In Case You Missed It...

Oregonian Editorial on budget: [Oregon suddenly arrives at the edge of the cliff](#)

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