File

JACKIE TAYLOR
CLATSOP/COLUMBIA/WASHINGTON COUNTIES
DISTRICT 2

REPLY TO ADDRESS INDICATED:
☐ House of Representatives
Salem, OR 97310
☐ 1324 Miller Lane
Astoria, OR 97103

COMMITTEES
Member:
House Human Resources
House Labor

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SALEM, OREGON
97310

May 14, 1991

Jerralynn Ness, Chair
Washington County Human Services Coalition
451 S. First Avenue, Suite 700
Hillsboro, Oregon 97123

Dear Ms. Ness:

I want to thank you for your kind invitation to participate in the Washington County Human Services Coalition and the Heart of Oregon community meeting to be held on Monday, May 20, 1991.

It is with regret that I must decline, due to a previous long-standing commitment.

I recently attended a similar forum in another part of District 2, and we had an excellent turnout. Many informed and pertinent questions were asked and I felt that the dialogue between the participants and the other attendees was most productive.

May your community meeting be as encouraging and fruitful.

Sincerely,

Jackie

Jacqueline Taylor
State Representative
District 2

JOHN E. MEEK
WASHINGTON COUNTY
DISTRICT 5

REPLY TO ADDRESS INDICATED:
☐ House of Representatives
Salem, OR 97310
☐ 713 NW Queens Court
Hillsboro, OR 97124

COMMITTEES
Member:
Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources
Intergovernmental Affairs
Human Resources

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SALEM, OREGON
97310

May 10, 1991

Jerralyn Ness, Chair
Washington County Human
Services Coalition
c/o 451 S. First Ave. #700
Hillsboro, OR 97123

Dear Jerralyn:

Thank you for your invitation to speak at your community meeting on May 20th. Unfortunately, I have a scheduling conflict and will not be able to attend, however, I have sent my responses to your questions in writing and hope they will be of some help.

Please stay in touch with me regarding human services issues. I look forward to your input and appreciate your including me in your forum at the PGE Auditorium.

The following are my responses to your questions:

1. I support short-term revenue raising measures simply for their individual merit. I am for general fees for services for those who can afford it. I am resisting any across the board tax at this time.

2. Non-essential services need to be cut before we cut into the essential services that you are addressing and that your organizations serves.

3. I do support the elimination of the 2% kicker and am working to see that it is used to back-fill the governor's recommended cuts to human services programs.

4. I do not have a tax plan of my own and do not support any particular one at this time.

5. In regards to your comments addressing House Bill 2550, I think you misunderstood the bill's intent. HB 2550 does <u>not</u> provide for additional tax exemptions for timber companies and agriculture interests. Instead, it eliminates them. The tax windfall the timber industry would have received under Measure 5 was adjusted in HB 2550.

6. I am not adverse to an inheritance tax, but now is not the right time to consider such an implementation. I am indifferent to a cigarette tax and basically have no opinion on the subject. If the money raised by an increase in the tax is used to help serve those in need of help, I would be generally supportive. I am opposed to a luxury tax.

7. Unless you've heard news regarding a Special Session that I haven't, I don't believe there are any plans at this time to schedule one. Right now, there is too much uncertainty regarding the passage (let alone the need for one) of a tax package of replacement revenue. The next Legislative Session or Special Session will move us all closer to some answers that the majority of voters in Oregon are looking for.

8. I would rather let you draw your own conclusions regarding the best way to cut government fat. My suggestion is to follow the editorials in the newspapers and then form your own opinion. I will only offer my background and experience to call hard services being provided to people a government programs. Compared to a program whose primary purpose is enforcing rules and regulations, this is where I see a prevalence of government fat.

9. Your concern over the windfall tax break for commercial property owners brought on by Measure 5 is a legitimate one and will be addressed in any new tax package. I agree that something needs to be done regarding the tax burden that low income residents have had to bear for the last 20 years. I concur that a better balance of corporate taxation is needed. You need to take a long look at the past legislative leadership to find your answer to the imbalance in the tax structure.

10. The best way to support my efforts is to, at this time, have people continue open dialogue with me and also keep my constituents informed that I am working to alleviate the hardships and burdens that the low income are facing due the governor's recommended budget. I have enclosed a copy of Rep. Eldon Johnson's add-back list that he is presenting to the Ways and Means Committee. I would appreciate your feedback.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share my brief views and again, I apologize for not being able to answer your questions in person. Good luck in the future, Jerralyn, and please keep in touch!

Sincerely,

John E. Meek
State Representative
District 5