

STATE THE PROBLEM: Washington State lacks the revenue to adequately fund its most basic services. This is because we have the most unfair and unstable revenue system in the nation, worse than Texas, South Dakota and Florida.

- The **wealthiest few pay just 2% of their incomes in taxes.**
- Middle class families pay 10%, while our low-income families pay up to 17% of their earnings on taxes.
- Large, profit-making corporations get **billions in special exemptions** from B&O taxes each year, while WA's small businesses pay more.

EXPLAIN THE CONSEQUENCES: Lack of revenue combined with the recession has resulted in \$12 billion in cuts and chronic underfunding that hurt everyone from schoolchildren to our seniors. We face rapidly growing needs that cannot be met without new revenue.

CHOOSE AN EXAMPLE, then illustrate with your personal story

A. Education: We don't have enough money to educate our kids properly, and our population is growing. College classes being cut while tuition is still skyrocketing.

B. Senior Services: We are cutting senior services right as our state's baby boomers are retiring.

C. Health Care: Washington's struggling families are being turned away from mental health, nutrition and medical care.

D. Your own example

URGE YOUR LEGISLATORS to adopt fair, accountable and shared revenue system with stable and sufficient revenues.

- By asking wealthier households and corporations to pay their fair share, we can fully fund schools, expand health care, repair our infrastructure, create jobs and build an economy of shared prosperity for all of us.
- **Fair** revenue sources ensure that everyone pays her or his share.
- **Accountable** revenue sources are transparent, hold everyone to the same rules, and are enforceable and open to public scrutiny.
- **Shared revenue** sources recognize that we are all in this , with no one group singled out to enjoy unfair special benefits or bear disproportionate responsibility
- **Stable and sufficient revenues** maintain these investments through good and bad economic times.

Consider some of the revenue options on the table, such as:

- Increase the B&O tax on large corporations by simplifying rates and eliminating loopholes
- Apply the sales tax to the wealthiest's investment transactions (capital gains), like other states.
- Tax carbon pollution by large corporate polluters