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## **Oregon's Kitchen Table – Comments and Reactions to First Consultation Economy and Jobs and Healthy Environment Outcome Areas Findings**

In response to results from the **Economy and Jobs and Healthy Environment Outcome Areas Findings** of the first consultation, 20 members of the Kitchen Table sent us comments and reactions. We've collected those comments, and we've grouped them together under two general topic areas. Below, please find a summary of the comments on the substance of the consultation. Please note that not all comments are included in their entirety (some have been trimmed for grammar), and our aim here is to share the substantive comments on the results with you all. A few members had some technical issues that we addressed individually. We'll continue to address those concerns on an individual basis to help make the results as accessible as possible.

Thank you for continuing the discussion on both these important issues and what your fellow Oregonians are thinking!

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### **1. Perceptions of government responsiveness to public input.**

- *"It is sad that most of don't feel our input will do any good or make a difference."*
- *"I was mostly struck about what little chance the state-wide sample thought that the OKT survey results would impact the legislature. I guess I'm not the only cynic in Oregon....Let us see if we can make a difference in the up-coming election! Elect those who we THINK will actually listen to this kind of input!!"*
- *"Setting priorities...hearing firsthand the voices of the average Oregonians, this information should be shared and used somehow in the decision making process."*
- *"Our representatives are going to do everything the way they want to do it no matter what the people of Oregon want."*

## 2. Critiquing state spending and revenue strategies.

- *They [our representatives] are going to do everything in their power to have complete control of all of the tax revenues from whatever source...Another case in point is the lottery. The lottery, when first approved was for schools. It did not take long before the revenue from the lottery was reallocated to the general fund so our great representatives could once again have complete control over the revenue and is now is complaining that we have underfunding for schools and need more money. Would we need more money if they would have left all of the lottery money in the school fund?"*
- *"The state could harvest timber to create revenue, but there are too many lawsuits stopping all logging. This is what deeply hurt the counties dependent on timber revenues to pay for their county services. The lawyers don't want any trees harvested whatsoever...The government (federal & state) could sell forest land to private individuals & private companies; BLM needs to sell the Oregon & California Railroad lands back to the private sector as they were supposed to do. The forest lands would be managed better & quicker turnaround time in the short & long run. "*
- *"I think we need to get PERS under control because it's an unleashed animal running wild. We need some expert accountants & financial planners to come up with fiscally responsible ways to reign PERS in. Taxes need to be reduced. They have become oppressive & regressive, especially if they're retroactive! There should never be retroactive taxation. I know for certain that reason alone is why Oregon lost numerous businesses."*
- *"Today, Oregon owes 50 Billion dollars including PERS. You [Oregon] are broke, busted, and bankrupt."*