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News Release

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State outlines procedure to donate kicker refund to a specific program
Do not mail endorsed kicker checks back to state, officials say

Salem—Because many Oregonians have inquired about how to donate their state income tax “kicker” refunds to specific state programs, the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) has established a Web site that describes how to do it.

According to the Web site (<http://www.oregon.gov/DAS/SCD/SRS/donations.shtml>), a citizen should send a personal check, not an endorsed kicker check, to the desired state agency, board or commission. The Web site provides links to the mailing addresses.

Some citizens may want to contribute to specific school districts or charities. In this case, a taxpayer should deposit the kicker check into his or her personal checking account, and then send a personal check to the desired school district or charity.

“We want to emphasize that taxpayers should not mail their endorsed kicker checks to state agencies,” said acting DAS director Kris Kautz. “The state cannot process endorsed tax refunds, and we are unable to forward them to charities and other organizations. If you wish to donate the kicker refund to an agency, a school or a charity, you should first deposit the kicker check into your personal checking account. Then send your personal check to the desired agency, charity or school.”

Nearly 14,000 taxpayers elected to contribute their kicker refunds to the State School Fund, and checked the appropriate box on their 2006 state income tax returns. If a taxpayer checked that box, the decision is irrevocable.

After depositing their kicker checks into their personal accounts, taxpayers may contribute directly to any state service or program. A donation to a state program may be tax deductible under IRS Section 170.