

My wife and I have been homeowners in Oregon since 2004. We were adversely affected by the 2007 crisis because we bought a house in April 2008, and were then unable to sell our condo for over two years due to the lack of buyers. So we got direct financial benefit from the ability to deduct mortgage interest on two homes at the same time.

Nevertheless, I wholeheartedly support this bill. Carrying a mortgage on a second property was financially difficult, but the mortgage interest deduction on our condo made no practical difference to the affordability of our situation. The people who reap the real benefit of this deduction are all very, very wealthy and would also not face financial hardship from being unable to deduct a second property. What they WOULD face is making decisions about whether owning multiple properties makes financial sense for them - decisions that would benefit people who are currently locked out of home ownership by the out-of-control housing market in Portland and elsewhere in the state.

We bought our home for \$330,000. A mere 13 years later, it has a market value twice that. This is an unconscionable accumulation of wealth that is driven entirely by the runaway housing market, which in turn is a result of wealthy investors who are being subsidized by the state.

Despite owning a home worth \$600,000, our income is well below the \$200k that marks the start of the mortgage deduction phase-out under this bill. If our income increased by \$90,000, I think we could somehow manage to afford the extra \$900 in taxes that this bill would cost us due to the loss of the mortgage interest deduction.

The mortgage deduction for second homes and high income earners benefits only the wealthy in our state, at the expense of all other Oregonians. Please do the right thing for Oregon and pass this bill to bring our tax code one step closer in line with our values.