

Public Testimony in Support of HB 2839
February 10, 2021

Dear Committee on Revenue,

My family is one of the lucky ones in Oregon. During the pandemic, we not only kept our jobs, but also watched our investments rise at an unprecedented rate. Money begets money, and this pandemic has been no exception.

Speaking as someone who benefits greatly from the current tax structure, I want to urge you to pass HB2839. If the legislature does the right thing, I will pay more in taxes.

I *should* pay more. I *want* to pay more. Why? Because I live in Oregon, and because my neighbors, my friends, my children's friends, my co-workers, my former students at Portland State and David Douglas High School, all the front line workers who provide all of us with food and medicine—they live here too.

Some wealthy individuals will argue that the market will take care of our social, political and economic problems. The past fifty years have shown that these arguments are simply not true. They are what Jeremy Bentham called “Nonsense Upon Stilts.”

Wages of most workers have not kept up with inflation, while housing, medical, and education costs have skyrocketed. At the same time, the taxes paid by wealthy people—and that includes me—are at the lowest they've been in decades.

I don't need another dollar to invest. What I need is for my government to raise my taxes and the taxes of other wealthy people like me, and fund desperately needed services for all Oregonians.

The problems we face cannot be solved by philanthropy or by individuals. This is even more true during the pandemic. We need systemic change—that means the government—and we need tax revenue to make those changes.

Please pass HB2839 so that we can begin moving towards a future where all Oregonians can thrive, not just the wealthy like me.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jennifer Schuberth