

Submitter: Annette Evans
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HJR201

I write in OPPOSITION to HJR 201 for a Statewide Property Tax.

Oregonians pay some of the highest tax rates compared to other states. Oregon rates in the top 20% of median home cost in our nation which adds to the housing crisis and adding more taxes to property owners will increase rents and housing costs – this is bad for Oregonians.

Affordable housing is already out of reach in Oregon. HJR 201 will:

- *Increase the risk of homelessness for our most vulnerable populations to include seniors and people with disabilities living on fixed incomes who own their home.
- *Will make it more difficult for hardworking low-income wage earners to purchase their first home.
- *Will decrease supply of privately-owned affordable housing as property owners will be faced with increasing housing rents to cover property taxes increases.
- *This Bill has the potential to remove Constitutional limits and protections of privately-owned property.

HJR 201 is proposed to address exposures of wildfire due to climate change impact; however, we see local and state government pass policy that adds to the impacts of climate change through development of farm and forest lands that store carbon from the atmosphere in the soil. Government continues to build on these precious soils for housing and industry resulting in increased pollution and climate change. Smart growth is needed to prevent climate change and we need to preserve our precious farm and forest lands from over development.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under Homeland Security makes Federal funding available across our nation to address public safety prevention, preparedness and response that is identified as a need HJR 201. These grants include tax funds paid by Oregonians – lets work collectively to bring these Oregon tax dollars back from the Federal government to work in our community and state.

For these reasons, I OPPOSE HJR 201 and ask our legislators to vote “No” on this Bill.