

Submitter: Craig Hooker
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HJR201

Members of the Legislative Assembly,

I write to you as a 10 year resident in the state of Oregon and a recent homeowner. I have invested my future in this state and plan to raise a family here. I made this decision in spite of the many burdensome problems laid at the feet of the good people that call Oregon home (high taxes, increasing crime, public safety issues, riots in the cities, massive homelessness, and roads in disrepair). I love Oregon. I love its natural treasures, which are the envy of many. I love its people and its culture. I chose to plant roots here in the face of an incredibly high cost of living because, so far, I believe the benefits outweigh the costs. This is why I was dismayed to see this joint resolution see the light of the day.

Oregon already has an incredibly high tax burden. Our income is taxed to no end, gas taxes go up every few years with no measurable improvement to our road maintenance, and property taxes are already poised to drive hardworking residents away. How can you, in good conscience, seek to impose a statewide property tax when you already take so much from us? And in the name of public safety? Do our massive taxes not already pay for services that should be rendering our cities safer? According to the text of the law, this tax can not only be levied on any asset mine, but it is also not subject to current constitutional protections or limits. Who in their right mind in the legislative assembly truly believes yet another tax is a reasonable imposition on Oregon residents?

I do not want to uproot from Oregon. But continued burdens such as this may cause me to seek out a new home. But never mind me. I am fortunate enough to be able to afford to sell my home and move out of state if need be, as incredibly painful as that would be. What about those Oregonians on fixed incomes? The elderly? Single parents? People with homes that are barely meeting their expenses every month? You would drive them out of their homes and onto the streets. This bill is nothing short of an egregious money grab that will have a devastating impact on all but the wealthiest Oregonians. You are elected to represent our interests. By passing this bill, you would demonstrate, unequivocally, that you seek only to serve your own interests and fill the state's pockets at the expense of everyone else.

I implore you to vote this resolution down. Oregonians are overburdened by sky high costs of living as it is. An increase like this would be absolutely devastating. Do your duty as elected representatives and decent human beings.

Sincerely,
A Concerned Citizen