

Submitter: R Klein
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HJR201

This testimony is made AGAINST HJR 201/HB4075

My arguments AGAINST this House Joint Resolution and the associated House Bill include, but are not limited to the following:

1. One document, the HJR0201 link, only discusses the creation of a state property tax to fund public safety. It never mentions the specifics of what is included in "public safety." The HJR 201 Staff Measure Summary also does not define what is included in Public Safety. YET, the testimony submitted by Paul Evans, the only supporter of HJR201, claims all of the funds collected through this new state-wide property tax is exclusively for wildfire prevention/suppression. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT THE FUNDS WILL BE USED FOR AND I AM AGAINST SUCH A VAGUELY WRITTEN RESOLUTION BEING PLACED ON THE BALLOT.
2. The Staff Measure Summary states the Measure "Allows the Legislative Assembly to set rates and exemptions for certain classifications of property and taxpayers." That is so vague and means that there will be some who will be paying more than others and voters are not involved in that decision making. This sounds like a "take from the rich and give to the poor" scheme.
3. The state collects sufficient funds to address public safety. If these funds weren't sufficient, why does the state return revenues in the form of a "kicker"?
4. Look other places for revenue. For example, stop giving free stuff, paid for by hard-working Oregonians, to people who just don't want to work. Place caps on handouts so that they become a way to help people get out of bad situations, not incentivize them to stay on the dole. Use those funds to handle wildfire prevention if that is really what this Resolution is about.

This is a terribly written plan and should not ever see a ballot for public voting.