

Submitter: True Houghtaling
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HJR201

My husband and I reside in rural southern coastal Oregon. This proposed measure would greatly impact us, as senior citizens who pay property taxes on our home and business properties.

My arguments AGAINST this Joint House Resolution, HJR201, and the associated House Bill HB4075 include, but are not limited to the following:

1. The HJR201 Staff Measure Summary discusses the CREATION OF A STATE PROPERTY TAX TO FUND PUBLIC SAFETY. There is no mention of the definition and/or parameters of "PUBLIC SAFETY" mentioned. I have read a claim that all of the funds collected through this new state-wide Property Tax will be used exclusively for wildfire suppression/prevention; however, there is no specific mention of that exclusive designation of funds collected.

BECAUSE THERE IS NO APPARENT OVERSIGHT OR DESIGNATION OF FUNDS COLLECTED BY THE STATE from the PEOPLE of OREGON, who already bear a significantly higher burden of property taxation, we argue that this is a BROAD OVER-REACH OF POWER by the State Legislature, and WE ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO such a proposal 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." This statement is so vague and ambiguous, but obviously states that there will be some residents of Oregon who will be paying more than others (more than likely unknowingly) and that VOTERS will not be involved in that decision making process. WE STRONGLY OPPOSE ANY MEASURE THAT HAS THE OBVIOUS POWER UNDERMINE THE FINANCIAL STABILITY OF OREGON'S CITIZENS ARBITRARILY.

3. The State already collects sufficient funds to address public safety. The task set before you all as state legislators is to be GOOD STEWARDS of those funds. Count every penny and measure its value in regard to the true benefits of its expenditure...and consider the work and sacrifice of those from whom you have collected it. IF "public safety" in terms of wildfire prevention and suppression actually requires more funding, please sit down with your budget and RE-PRIORITIZE...just like the rest of us must do.

4. As State legislators, you have been tasked with caring for all of your constituents and with being fiduciarily responsible. Please take time to consider TRUE PRIORITIES...Place caps on handouts so that they become a way to help people get

through hard situations and get their feet under them. Encourage job creation, but not through more taxes on those who are working and funding programs. PUBLIC SAFETY is a priority...but considering the real problems undermining that safety is paramount to you doing your job well. Currently, there is a large portion of your constituency who are being incentivized to remain on the dole by the of legislature's ENABLEMENT. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT IS NOT WORKING for these folks who have fallen on hard times or who, by choice, CHOOSE to live their lives accepting handouts offered.

THIS IS A RIDICULOUSLY VAGUELY WRITTEN PLAN AND SHOULD NEVER EVEN BE CONSIDERED TO BE PLACED ON A BALLOT FOR PUBLIC VOTING. YOU CAN DO A LOT BETTER THAN THIS!