

Submitter: Richard Hansen
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HJR201

Good Morning,

I'm a 75 years old man, retired, and have lived in Medford Oregon since 1966.

Oregon may be one of the most beautiful states in the union, but unfortunately, it's not one of the cheapest. Per MERIC's 2022 cost of living index , Oregon is 45th. Only Massachusetts, California, New York, Hawaii, Maryland, Alaska, and Washington, D.C., are more expensive. To put that in perspective, neighboring Washington state scores 40th on MERIC's index, and Idaho is only 28th. I now understand why so many of my friends and retirees have moved to other states.

I have many lady & male friends that are retired who are struggling to make ends meet. Several are in their 70's and still have to work to try & make ends meet. Then inflation continues to eat away at their monthly budget. Health Care, Transportation & Home Energy, Food etc. continue scare Oregonians on how they'll make ends meet. If their lucky enough to have a home, their property tax is taking another scary bite out of their yearly budget. If their renting, they don't realize that increased property tax is passed on through their rent.

Oregon is well known for its progressive social agendas, at least in its major cities — so it's no surprise that it has one of the highest income tax burdens in the United States.

Oregon's highest marginal tax rate is 9.90%, according to the Tax Foundation's State Individual Income Tax Rates and Brackets for 2023 . That's higher than every state except New Jersey (10.75%), Hawaii (11%), and California (13.30%). Keep in mind that this figure does not include federal income tax.

Oregonians have to live within our budgets, Oregon Legislature should live within theirs.

Enough is enough,

Richard C Hansen