

Dear Members of the House Rules Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HJR 201, which proposes the implementation of a statewide property tax in Oregon. As a concerned citizen, I believe that this proposal would have detrimental effects on Oregonians across the state. Here are several reasons why I believe HJR 201 is a bad idea:

Financial Burden: Oregonians already bear a heavy tax burden compared to residents of many other states. Implementing a statewide property tax would further strain the finances of individuals and families who are already struggling to make ends meet.

Loss of Local Control: HJR 201 would strip away the current local control over property taxes held by counties and cities. Allowing Portland politicians to dictate property tax rates statewide would disregard the unique needs and circumstances of rural communities, potentially leading to disproportionate tax increases for rural Oregonians.

Erosion of Constitutional Protections: The proposal would undermine the existing Constitutional limits on property tax rates and assessment rates established by Measure 5 and Measure 50. By introducing sneaky exceptions, HJR 201 would open the door to limitless property taxes, posing a significant risk to vulnerable populations such as seniors, the disabled, and individuals with limited incomes.

Threat to Homeownership: Unlimited property tax increases could force many Oregonians out of their homes, especially those on fixed incomes. This would not only destabilize communities but also jeopardize the ability of seniors, the disabled, and low-income individuals to maintain stable housing.

In conclusion, I urge the House Rules Committee to reject HJR 201 and uphold the current Constitutional protections that safeguard Oregonians from excessive property tax burdens. Any changes to property tax policy should prioritize affordability, local autonomy, and the well-being of all residents. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Nestor Gonzalez