

To: Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue  
Re: Against HJR 201

We would like to urge the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue to vote against HJR 201.

Oregon voters were very clear in the 1990s that they wanted Constitutional constraints on the local property tax increases. Yet today we are faced with a proposal through HJR 201 that would disregard these voters' wishes. Furthermore, the bill would ignore the current, appropriate role of cities and counties to levy property taxes and allow the State to take on that role.

The bill claims the proposed tax would address much needed support for public safety. However, much of the public safety challenges we face today were a result of government's reduction of public safety measures and support. Examples have been "defunding the police" and loosening arrest and incarceration policies. There is nothing in the bill quantifying what the State will achieve with the tax funds or holding the State accountable for making those improvements. The bill only gives the State an opportunity to tax. There is no sunset to the proposed taxing or criteria identifying when the taxing should end. Finally, once HJR 201 becomes a reality, it will be easier for the State to levy property taxes for other needs.

If this bill is moved forward and passed by the legislature, it will need to go to the public for a vote to change our Constitution. It would be better to nip this in the bud than to waste the time and resources battling this issue in the public.

Please vote against HJR 201.

Thank you for your consideration.

Susan and Randall Pozdena  
Washington County