

February 12, 2024

Oregon House of Representatives  
House Rules Committee  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

To the members of the House Rules Committee,

I'm contacting you today to be part of the public record of citizen opposition to HJR 201, the statewide property tax proposal.

My name is Patty Wisner. I'm a native Oregonian from Clackamas County. I'm a co-owner of my home along with my sister. We are both Senior Citizens. I work full time at age 68-years-old and my sister is 70-years old and she works part-time to keep a roof over our heads, a small, modest ranch house.

If property taxes keep increasing without restriction we will be forced to move to a more tax/citizen friendly state. We love Oregon, but we also realize that Democratic leadership in Oregon for the last 35 years has driven up taxes and fees and driven away thousands of residents and business owners who should have been able to stay and flourish here.

My family has lived in Oregon over 118 years. We are registered voters and vote in every election.

I am against HJR 201 because Oregon does not need another level of property taxation to fund part of the state budget, there are better ways to manage Oregon's budget than add an extra layer of unrestricted property tax.

The addition of a state wide property tax would be very damaging to the financial wellbeing of many Oregonians including single parents with limited incomes, senior citizens with limited incomes, disabled residents and minority residents with limited incomes because these groups are often renters and this proposed statewide tax would raise apartment rents out of reach of these limited income groups. HJR 201 would also make home ownership out of reach for middle and lower income residents who already struggle to pay annual county/city/school district taxes.

Additional reasons for my opposition include the fact that 49 other states in the USA have found better ways of financing their budget's without adding statewide property tax burdens on their taxpayers. Why can't Oregon study those more successful states and adopt their more successful strategies like lowering corporate taxes and the costs of starting businesses in the state, reducing income and estate taxes, in other words **make Oregon more attractive as a place to live since now we are one of the 8 top states loosing residents because the cost of government is too high, and restrictions on businesses and high fees discourage potential employers from starting more businesses and offering more employment to Oregon residents.**

With more businesses and more employees paying taxes results in more taxes collected to fund the state budget, so why don't you follow those successful strategies other states prosper from and make Oregon a powerhouse for job growth. At the same time lower the cost of living for residents, lower the cost of doing business to grow an array of new businesses. And in addition, cut areas of the Oregon budget. Like make a small cut across the board in public employee salaries and their benefit packages. Several years ago I was looking for jobs, I saw the salaries for Public sector jobs in my field which were paying much higher than a comparable job in the private sector, plus an overly expensive benefits package. I work for an international corporation and we have to pay a sizable portion of our health, insurance and retirement benefits out of our earnings, why can't public employees do the same and lower the tax burden on Oregon's taxpayers? Your are always spouting off on "equity", well here's your chance!

Last weekend London Daily Mail ran their lead front page story on Portland, Oregon and the drug and homeless epidemic here. I always read stories about Portland on news web sites inside and outside the US, I also read the comments and it is plain to say that Oregon's Democratic lawmakers and policy makers have made Oregon the laughingstock of the nation and the western world, and I'm very sorry to say that, but everybody outside the Oregon Democrat Party knows that is true. I could say a lot more, but I'll stop here.

Thank you for your attention to public testimony.

Best regards,

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