

Submitter: Michael Berry
On Behalf Of: Self
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB4075

House Rules Members - Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Helfrich and Kropf, Members Nosse, Scharf, Valderrama, and Wallan

Please kill this bill/resolution HB4075/HJR201 in committee.

The testimony and letter submitted by sponsor Rep. Paul Evans is persuasive support. But, in the end, this would authorize more onerous taxes. The authority for defining the taxes would be delegated to a Task Force.

The makeup of the "Task Force on Funding Public Safety" would be stacked with people appointed by Oregon's governor. Many of the appointees would be from agencies that are already controlled by the governor and/or are beholden to taxpayers for their very professional existence (and their generous salaries and benefits, including retirements). The actions of recent governors (including sitting Gov. Tina Kotek) have demonstrated ignorance, if not indifference, if not hostility, toward ruralites and people whose livelihoods are in resource industries and other industries that produce many of the things that are essential to build and maintain our civilization (including food, shelter, transportation), and have helped make the USA a great nation... that includes business in general. Productive members of society, many of whom are struggling, seem to be viewed as nothing more than proverbial cash cows.

As an alternative and partial funding solution, perhaps Oregon's natural resources could be managed better- for the benefit of all. The Elliott State Forest provides a good example of a dismal failure- turning something that was an asset that was intended to be managed for the benefit of the populace into a liability (thanks a lot- former Gov. Brown, Tobias Read, et al).

Again, please kill this bill/resolution in committee. It does not represent good governance.

Thank you.

- Michael S. (Mike) Berry

Douglas County, OR