



E. WERNER RESCHKE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 55

13 February 2024

To: House Committee on Rules
Re: Opposition to HJR 201

Chair Fahey, Vice Chairs Helfrich & Kropf and Members of the House Committee on Rules,

I write to express my opposition to HJR 201 as currently written (base resolution). While I understand the desire for more public safety funding, a new property tax district and structure outside of Ballot Measure 5 & 50's current limitations will be unworkable for many of my constituents in House District 55.

As of the latest Revenue Forecast (7 February 2024), Oregon's government is now predicted to have more than \$1 billion in fungible revenue than was forecasted at the end of the 2023 session. These additional funds can be used in many ways, one of them being to better fund public safety.

On opening day, Speaker Rayfield's speech to the House Chamber was about opportunity. I suggest that a new tax on property, outside the limits of Ballot Measures 5 & 50, will mean less opportunity for Oregonians. Every additional dollar taken by the state is one dollar less parents have to save for their children's education. It is one dollar less business owners have to invest and expand their business or reward their employees.

According to the Portland Metro Chamber website, Governor Kotek recently revealed her Central City's Task Force recommendations. Of those recommendations it is important to note her plan declares, "a moratorium on new taxes" and to, "offer targeted tax relief." I wholeheartedly concur. However, HJR 201 seems to go against such moratorium. Again, many in House District 55 are concerned that additional taxes will make only make our state's affordability crisis even worse.

I appreciate your willingness to hear this resolution for the purposes of raising the awareness of public safety, but please reject its solution of new property taxes.

Sincerely,

E. WERNER RESCHKE
State Representative, HD 55
The Crater Lake District