

Submitter: Raymond Smith  
On Behalf Of: Myself my Family and Taxpayers  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HJR201

Dear Chair Fahey, Vice Chairs, Helfrich and Kropf and Committee Members,

I strongly oppose HJR 201. I object to another tax on my real property and to any other property or personal tax that is dreamed up by the legislature. I also object specifically to the State having the authority to tax my property. The supposed need for this new tax is for wildfire funding; wildfire where climate change is used as a false premise. 2020 had the worst fire season in Oregon's history. The most catastrophic and costly of the fires that year were from arson, most are still under investigation and are surely never to be solved. Immediately after the fires were set, "experts" and the news began reporting climate change as the major cause. I live in southwest Oregon. We have very hot, dry summers with dry electrical storms, some years more frequent than others. This is not new. This is not related to climate change. We live in a fire dependent ecosystem that has been here so long that we have multiple species of pyrophytic plants. These are plants that require fire to release their seeds or to reproduce. The only thing that has changed with regard to wildfire is the elimination of smokejumpers and spotters that put fires out as soon as they started. This was cheap and effective. It was and still is necessary in second growth forests. Now, fires are ignored until they are unstoppable and millions are spent trying to contain them until nature can put them out. This not only releases more carbon into the air that climate alarmists worry about, but eliminates nature's carbon scrubbers in the process: trees and plants. Equally disastrous is the one size fits all forest management program. Over thinning the canopy of second growth forests in hot dry regions causes spot specific drought, stressing trees and inviting beetle infestation. This also strips the much needed nutrient from the trees, supplied by the undergrowth that nature provides. Stop wasting natural resources and tax dollars for new management programs that are proven to be failures year after year. Stop inventing new ways to generate a funding source by creating disasters. If you want to stop wildfires, return to what worked for almost one hundred years. Without new taxes and levies, our property taxes increase yearly. The cost of electricity has doubled in just three years. This is the fault of the Oregon Legislature and Governor. The cost of heating a home is unaffordable. The cost of gasoline is unaffordable. Food is unaffordable. The cost of living is unaffordable. Disastrous government mandates, taxes and policies are responsible for all of this. Taxpayers cannot afford any more. Please reject HJR201.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Raymond Smith