

Submitter: Andrew Allen
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2301

Dear members of the revenue committee:

I strongly oppose expanding the estate tax exemption.

I have lived in Oregon over half my life (I'm 72) and have seen this come up repeatedly. I have always opposed any increase in the exemption, since the tax is not a burdensome one for anyone, even those few who are personally affected by it since it will only ever collect a small portion of the taxable estate.

If the legislature is determined to go ahead with it this time, then they should also have to identify either:

- a) which specific budget items will be eliminated in order to pay for the \$400M per biennium we'll lose (since we, unlike the federal government, can't simply run a perennial deficit); or
- b) what new tax(es) they will implement to replace the lost revenue; or
- c) some combination of both.

Failure to do so would blow a huge hole in the state budget, without anyone having discussed up front that this is the predictable outcome or making any sort of remediation plan.

That, in turn, would be political malpractice and would prompt me, and others, to initiate recall campaigns against any and all members of the revenue committee -- not because you voted for or against (as is your right), but specifically because you all weaseled around the fact that you were cutting the state budget by nearly half a billion dollars, but never ACTUALLY discussed that key aspect and allowed such a travesty to occur as an avoidable consequence of other legislation (which was only done to benefit wealthier Oregonians). In which case, shame on all of you, even those who voted against, for not doing the people's business openly and transparently.

Thanks very much.

I live in 97229, SD 15 (Sollman) / HD 30 (Sosa), and our former state senator (Dr. Steiner) is now state treasurer.

