

Submitter: Douglas Olson
On Behalf Of: Self and Spouse
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2301
February 6, 2025

Testimony Before the Oregon House Committee On Revenue
House Bill 2301

Chair Nathanson and members of the committee:

My name is Doug Olson. Patty Olson is my spouse.

We are both native Oregonians, born, raised, educated in our great state. I'm also a graduate of Oregon's University System. We currently live in Tillamook County.

Except for a two-year corporate assignment in the Midwest, we have lived and worked our entire lives in Oregon. Patty, for the US Postal Service for 25 years in downtown Portland.

I have worked for both public and private employers including Washington County and Tillamook County where I just completed service as a County Commissioner. I have also been elected to local public office in Oregon seven times over the last 25 years.

We owned and operated two small motels on the magnificent Oregon Coast from 1993 until our retirement in 2016. We employed over 300 people over that period.

We also paid taxes to both the Federal Government and the State of Oregon during that time.

By working 50 plus hours a week over 20 plus years, we, like many other small business owners, have built a modest estate for our retirement. During that time, we missed our share of holiday gatherings, birthdays, graduations and more. Vacations were few and far between.

Neither of us has ever taken a dime of government assistance, Federal or State, over the past 60+ years. We have paid our bills on time, joined in community service, provided jobs and otherwise have paid our fair share and more to the State of Oregon.

House Bill 2301 before you today simply brings a measure of fairness and equity to Oregon's tax system. Current law is not indexed to inflation. That likely results in tens of thousands of people like us who will have their estates taxed unfairly upon their death.

Increasing the threshold to \$7 million will be an excellent start to making Oregon's tax system more equitable, manageable and workable for the tens of thousands of Oregonians who have accumulated a modest estate over years of hard and dedicated work.

A government must not only be fair, transparent, reasonable, effective, accountable and accessible. It must also be Moral.

Thank you!