

Representative Nathanson and members of the House Revenue Committee:

I'm sure you don't often get someone to say, tax me. But I am! Please vote down HB 2301.

I have been fortunate to have invested in real estate more than IRA's. The appreciation for my five-plex apartment building has increased from \$300,000 to over \$1 million. If I sell it before I die, I will pay capital gains, but to be honest I've enjoyed the income to supplement my social security and PERS.

This rate of return is quite good, but I did nothing to earn it other than holding on to a piece of property and keeping it maintained. The same is true for my home.

There is no reason to cut the estate taxes of the wealthiest. My son has received significant support over his lifetime from his parents-mostly his father, including the down payment for a house that for many others is out of reach and can well support himself as a public defender.

What I don't understand is why we are talking about cutting taxes when the state is in a housing crisis, a wildfire crisis, a mental health crisis, a foster care crisis and not meeting our goals for climate change. New taxes or fees are needed to pay for rail, bus and Safe Routes to School that have been asked for in every listening session around the state. Let alone fix all the bridges that are not seismically safe. Oregonians have values to take care of each other. For the state of Oregon to do so, it needs money and should not lower the taxes on the wealthiest.

Don't cut the estate tax nor increase the exemption.

In respect,

Catherine Thomasson, MD