

Submitter: Mark Reaksecker
On Behalf Of: COMMON SENSE PART 2
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3755

With the elderly struggling to make ends meet and trying to pay property taxes, many will find an easier solution, that involves non-payment of property taxes due to inability, or selling their home and moving to a tax friendly state. Both options decrease school fund revenues and municipal services. The cost of real estate liens and foreclosure for property tax non-payment by our seniors, will be both expensive and repugnant; a slap in the face to those that struggled to pay taxes their entire life. Some seniors will move to states that don't over-burden them with property taxes. Yes, somebody will buy their Oregon home and pay the property taxes, but the seniors won't buy another home in Oregon, which will create a significant void for school funding. One way or another, senior citizens will stop paying property taxes, with the result of lower school funding. Plus, all the senior citizen consumer spending will be done in other states, further eroding Oregon's economy.

There is already an exodus by people from the state of Oregon. As per Purecountry1067, people leaving Portland, cost the Multnomah County economy over one billion dollars. That equates to a lot of lost tax dollars, both income tax and property tax. And that's just Portland. People in Eugene, the capital city of Salem, and Bend are also leaving.

Where are they going? The top five destinations, in ranking order are: Idaho, Texas, Arizona, Washington, and Florida. Talk about a significant reduction in tax base—what will the schools do now; tax those remaining residents to death? Watch Oregon's death spiral begin—or do something before it's too late.

GOVERNMENT FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITY

Our Oregon government tries to be everything for everybody by providing endless, unnecessary programs and benefits. Former President Abraham Lincoln said it best: You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer. You cannot further the brother-hood of man by encouraging class hatred. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich. You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn. You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence. You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.

A perfect example is HB2995. Why would legislature propose a bill to allocate funds for reparation, to people who weren't enslaved, and may have been immigrants after slavery occurred in America? This is totally ludicrous. If the state of Oregon has so much money that they can give it away to non-deserving people, the state surely has the funds to give living, struggling seniors a property tax break—and don't even think

about touching our kicker tax refund; unless you truly want an Oregon Civil War that includes more than just Ducks and Beavers. HB2995 won't change a thing, except make over-taxed citizens angry toward legislatures that voted for this absurd bill.

The bottom line: cut the waste and the state of Oregon will have more than enough resources to compensate. If you look for the waste to cut, you'll find it.

The nature and parameters of this bill allows for a slow, gradual, twenty-year phase-in. That is more than enough time to allow budget reviews to fully adjust. We've all seen instances where the government just happens to find vast sums of money to fund pet projects. If there's a will, there's a way. Most people's eyes are now open, and are watching like never before.