

Submitter: AL Martin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation Reinvestment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2025

Title: "Oregon's Bold New Plan: Tax the Roof Right Off Their Heads!"

Esteemed Members of the Legislature,

In your noble quest to solve the housing crisis, balance the budget, and squeeze every last penny from the coffee-stained couch cushions of working families, you've come up with a brilliant plan: MORE TAXES!

Yes! Because nothing says "compassion" like taxing the very people who are one missed paycheck away from swapping their home for a tent and a tarp with an ocean view under the overpass.

Let us applaud your creativity:

Tax gas? ? Because walking is healthy.

Tax groceries? ? Who needs food when you've got resilience?

Tax bicycles? ? Finally, we make those smug, eco-conscious hipsters pay their fair share!

Tax rainwater? ? Mother Nature's been freeloading long enough!

But here's a radical idea: maybe — just maybe — adding 13 new taxes in a state already drowning in record-high homelessness is like pouring maple syrup on a wildfire and calling it "breakfast."

After all, what better way to reduce homelessness than to make housing more expensive, transportation less accessible, and survival a taxable offense?

And let's not forget your most ingenious proposal: a "street camping fee". Finally! A way to turn homelessness into a revenue stream. Just imagine the slogan:

"Oregon: where even rock bottom gets taxed."

We say go further: install parking meters next to tents! Issue "sidewalk use permits" for sleeping bags! And maybe even a luxury tax on cardboard signs with clever slogans.

In conclusion, dear legislators, if your goal is to drive out the middle class, inflate the housing crisis, and create a thriving underground barter economy run by raccoons — you're on the right track.

But if you want to fix the problem?

Maybe tax less, waste less, build more, and — I don't know — try spending wisely for once.

Warmest (and most heavily taxed) regards,  
The Disheveled Citizens of Taxachusetts West (formerly known as Oregon)