

Submitter:

J D

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2321

Back in November of 2024 I read this quote in an article and saved it to see if the democrats in power would indeed stand by this commitment or if it was just another empty promise.

In a news release on Wednesday, House Majority Leader Ben Bowman, D-Tigard, wrote that Democrats will "show that this state is for everyone."

"We take this responsibility seriously," Bowman said in a written statement. "In the 2025 session, we will improve the lives of all Oregonians with a focus on affordability, making government work, and keeping Oregonians safe."

I am assuming the reason for this bill is to find a way to raise property taxes. How does that fit in with the above quote to have a focus on affordability for all Oregonians? How would raising property taxes help young people purchase a home? How would raising property taxes affect seniors on fixed incomes who desire to stay in their homes? Property taxes are not based on ability to pay and I have known people who had to sell their home because of property taxes increasing to a point of unaffordability. At least with measures 5 and 50 in place we know about how much we need to put aside each year for property taxes and not worry each year that they could increase over the 3% cap. Property tax is the only tax that we have to pay over and over on the same thing. Sales tax is collected once for each item purchased. Income tax is paid on money earned that year. In my opinion, the only reason you should study property taxes in Oregon is to seek to lower (or abolish) them for all Oregonians. Please relook at the above quote once again and each time you vote on higher fees and taxes consider how it aligns with "improving the lives of all Oregonians with a focus on affordability".