

HB 3453 would allow an income tax to be imposed on targeted citizens without approval of the legislature or the citizens targeted. It provides vast authority to the governor and the leaders of the house and senate.

The issue of funding public services at the local level is an issue of local voter decision. With passage of this bill, a 'public fiscal safety emergency declaration' could be declared by the Governor if local voters vote down a local tax levy. It is a matter of "if you won't vote for a tax, the governor will impose one." Once a 'public fiscal safety emergency' has been declared, the Governor would in effect take control of the affected county, including issuing a levy on local citizens, and even merging the land area and citizens of the county with a neighboring county. The Governor has even discussed the use of the National Guard to patrol the county affected.

Many of Oregon's rural counties are in fiscal distress from the loss of jobs and revenue, including Lane County. The reasons are many, but all are based on a lack of support for rural communities by the state and years of arbitrary and irrational 'comprehensive' land use and environmental regulations that have frustrated and depressed economic development across all counties.

voters should be the ones to decide what they are willing to pay for. This bill would give complete control of local government to the Governor and local government officials, and allow targeted taxation of the residents to pay for it.

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