

Chair Barnhart & Members of the House Committee on Revenue:

I write in support of HJR 21. Although, Benton County is not affected by the proposed legislation, we support the efforts of thirteen counties in requesting an amendment to the Oregon Constitution that provides that the rate of ad valorem property taxes for any tax year may not be less than \$2.00 per thousand dollars of assessed value. A proposed amendment to the bill excepts \$2.00 per thousand dollars minimum from compression (under Measure 5 – 1990) for only the affected thirteen counties.

HJR 21, allows the voters of the State to set the aforementioned tax rate for counties to fund public safety and provide services to their citizens. As subdivisions of the state, counties are the delivery system for basic public services. It is time to re-visit the limits and hardships imposed by Measures 5 and 47/50.

Respectfully,
Commissioner Annabelle Jaramillo
Benton County