

House Committee on Revenue

May 6, 2015

HJR 12 and HJR 20 increase property tax collections beyond levels currently allowed by the constitution.

- HJR 12 would reset assessed (taxable) values from constitutionally-limited maximum assessed values to real market values upon the sale or transfer of a property.
- HJR 20 allows districts to seek voter approval to impose additional local option taxes.

Measure 5 and 50 property tax limitations were placed into the constitution by voters to limit the growth in annual property tax bills. Though perhaps imperfect, these limitations have been in place for over 15 years and have been effective in achieving that purpose.

Piecemeal changes to the Oregon constitution designed to rollback or circumvent these limitations are both inappropriate and counterproductive. Changes to Oregon's property tax laws should only be considered in the context of broader systematic state tax reform.

These proposed changes could adversely affect the competitiveness and profitability of Oregon's natural resource sectors.

Respectfully, the coalition of signatories on this letter request the committee oppose both resolutions.

