

I am writing today as a Realtor with 26 years experience in the Portland Metropolitan Real Estate market and also as a concerned citizen of Oregon.

I understand that other Realtors will be calling you and speaking out about how bad this is for the affordability problem in Oregon, but I can tell you that isn't based on facts. Studies show that this tax deduction routinely benefits the most wealthy homeowners, and of the 10 states without the state deduction 8 have higher home ownership levels.

The fact is that folks whose Mortgage Interest Deduction exceeds \$15,000/year don't need a public subsidy to shelter the remaining amount from taxation. And they certainly don't need it to buy the home in the first place. They may want it, as they feel entitled to it, but they don't need it.

And folks who are fortunate to afford not one, but two homes, well...I don't think we need to subsidize them either.

This policy is just widening the gap between those folks that are building wealth and those folks that are just barely getting by. We can't afford that gap to get any bigger in Oregon. It is time for us to have a courageous conversation about who we subsidize and what that makes us as a society. Tens of thousands of Oregonians are homeless or in perilous living situations. That's who we should subsidize.

--

**Chris Bonner | Principal Broker**  
**The Love Portland Group | Hasson Company, Realtors**