

Common Ground OR-WA
1137 NE Beech St., #1
Portland, OR 97212
503-752-9494
www.commongroundorwa.org

Testimony concerning 2017 Oregon SJR 3, 2-14-17

Chairman Hass, members of the Committee, Staff, and Assembled Citizens:

My name is Jeff Strang. I'm the chair of Common Ground Oregon-Washington, a non-profit organization with a mission that includes promoting fair taxation of private use of natural resources and reduction of taxes on labor and capital. With regard to property taxes, we advocate for shifting property taxes off structures and onto land.

To get to the point where we can examine the costs and benefits of such a policy, however, we have to repeal the artificial, inequitable system of assessed property tax values put in place by 1997's Ballot Measure 50. As long as we have a property tax, it should be based on real market values. In the 20 years since Measure 50 was put in place, compounding economic distortions have resulted in perverse incentives and inequities across the state, including a significant damper on owners improving their properties in order to avoid a sudden reassessment and much higher property taxes.

We encourage this committee to refer SJR 3 on to the Senate floor for a vote.

Thank you for your consideration.