

Russ Milburn
510 B Street
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February 13, 2019

Oregon Senate Finance and Revenue committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Hass and members of the committee:

Thank you for holding hearings on Senate Bill 188, Oregon's Estate Tax.

Oregon's personal income tax and estate taxes are driving me out of Oregon upon my retirement in 2 short years.

Let me tell you a little about myself and why I feel Oregon is driving me out. I graduated from Neah-Kah-Nie high school in 1973 in Rockaway Beach, Oregon. I moved out of the state after graduation to go to school and pursue my career. In 2007, I was able to move back to Oregon, mostly to be near my parents who lived in Oregon from 1967 until the end of their lives in 2016. I got my first paycheck when I was 15 and have been employed ever since.

I have raised and educated my 3 children who now have families and careers of their own. Along the way my wife and I have had 3 foster children, served on boards of non-profit organizations, am still a Rotarian and the treasurer of a non-profit arts organization in Medford, Oregon.

We have been financially conservative, living in a 1400 square foot home, built in 1971 in Phoenix, Oregon. We have 3 vehicles, two 2003 Buicks and a 2017 Ford F-150. We traded in our 2001 F150 when we bought our current pickup. We were able to afford our last vehicle purchase by putting money away every month for 5 years until we could afford the purchase.

Having worked for almost 50 years and taken advantage of 401(k) plans we have amassed sufficient funds to retire shortly after turning 65. We would like to provide an inheritance to our children with our residual estate. All of our savings came from employment. We have paid taxes on these earnings. Now the state of Oregon feels that because I have worked all my life and have handled my finances responsibly the state deserves a portion of my estate. This is uncontainable to me and I choose not to let it happen by moving to a state with no estate tax.

Here is what the state will lose when I move:

- Income tax on my retirement income
- Monetary donations to Oregon non-profits
- Leadership to Oregon non-profits

One of the most onerous parts of the current estate tax is that it is not indexed. The threshold remains at the same level as the day it was enacted.

Please understand that several of my peers have expressed similar concerns and have similar plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell Milburn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R".

Russell Milburn
Concerned Citizen