

To: Members of the House Revenue Committee.

Re: HJR - Property Tax Ratio Adjustment - Oppose

I understand the desire to tax more equitably but this does nothing to solve such an issue. Why not focus on a state income tax where 75% of Oregonians all fall under the 9% tax bracket. How is such a rate equitable? Seems like a flat tax to me. If Oregon is so concerned with taxing people of wealth, than why does Phil Knight pay a mere 0.9% more in state tax than I do? My wife and I make under \$100k a year and honestly can not afford to keep paying higher and higher taxes. Gas, cigars, alcohol, groceries, home owner insurance, medicine, have all increased. My property taxes go up each and every year. If this bill passes, my property taxes will go up by \$1,800, increasing my mortgage payment by an additional \$150 per month. This will lead to an increase in Rents as landlords will have no choice but to raise rents by the max each and every year. Furthermore, property tax increases will be much higher than a mere 3% as the market value of homes in Deschutes County have increased in double digits over the past year. According to Zillow, Deschutes County saw a 14.5% increase in property values over the past year alone (<https://www.zillow.com/deschutes-county-or/home-values/>).

Many families are currently struggling to make ends meat during this Covid crisis. Is raising taxes on so many fronts a wise decision? I do hope the committee makes the rights decision by opposing this bill.

Respectively,

Matthew Carter