

Submitter: Julie Blackman  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HJR201

I strongly oppose HJR 201 for the following reasons;

1) The current short legislative session is designed to deal with issues that cannot wait until the full session a year from now. The issue raised in HJR 201 is a major change to funding in Oregon. The short session is not the time to raise it.

2) Given the record-breaking amount predicted for the kicker, as well as the large financial windfalls to the State that we read of in The Oregonian, it's difficult to understand why the Legislature would feel the need to suggest such a vast, new, state-wide tax at this time.

3) This would not be subject to Measure 5 limitations, as I understand it. These limitations are the only break property tax payers have ever received and chiseling away at these protections will quickly result in rapidly escalating housing costs, for both owners and renters. It would also place yet another tax burden on Oregon's business community, which continues to struggle in the wake of the pandemic as well as the myriad events of 2020.

4) Oregon's policy makers and implementers have an exceedingly poor record of responsible use of tax funds. I see nothing here that indicates any specific, measurable goals, metrics and outcomes. I'd like to think that Oregon can do better but have begun to question that belief.

There are plenty of issues that need to be dealt with in this short session. HJR 201 does not deserve the time required.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns.