

Submitter: Michelle Ralph
On Behalf Of: Myself
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HJR201

Dear House Committee Members,

I oppose HJR 201 on a few factors.

First is the mismanagement of spending and unnecessary programs. Measure 110 was an utter failure. Oregon's Employment Department finally installed new computers and systems after receiving federal funding 15 years ago. There is also a proposed \$500 million housing project that will also increase taxes, something many, especially low-income homeowners, cannot afford.

Second, property taxes are already high. Even though Oregon ranks in the middle of the pack country-wide, there are also local taxes and levies. My city is still paying for Rogue Community College bonds and Rogue Valley Transportation levies. We are also paying for our local law enforcement and fire districts.

Third, paying for an agency for something that already exists is unnecessary. Local jurisdictions and districts know better what the locals need.

Many don't trust the state government anymore with the money already given to them. Home prices increased, especially due to the Almeda and similar fires in 2020 and the lack of housing driving up demand. If the State can reign in the spending and budget, then maybe, just maybe, my fellow constituents will be willing to entrust a little bit more of our hard-earned money to the state. We have Measures 5, 47, and 50 for a reason. Passing this will create a loophole to bypass those measures that protect property owners.

I urge you to vote No on HJR201