

Submitter: John Kendall
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HJR201

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to you today to express my deep concerns regarding House Joint Resolution 201 (HJR 201) and its potential impact on the residents of Oregon. As a constituent deeply invested in the well-being of our state, I urge you to carefully consider the detrimental effects this proposal could have on our communities before making any decisions.

First and foremost, the financial burden imposed by HJR 201 is simply unsustainable for Oregonians. Our state already grapples with high taxation rates compared to many others, placing significant strain on the budgets of families and individuals across the state. Implementing a new statewide property tax scheme without adequate limits will only exacerbate this issue, further burdening taxpayers who are already stretched thin.

Moreover, the proposal strips away the current local control over property taxes from counties and cities, effectively placing the power in the hands of Portland politicians. This centralized approach risks neglecting the diverse needs and priorities of rural Oregonians, who may find themselves unfairly targeted to subsidize the reckless spending of urban areas.

Furthermore, HJR 201 undermines crucial Constitutional limits on property tax rates and assessment rates, such as those established by Measure 5 and Measure 50. By introducing sneaky exceptions to these safeguards, the resolution opens the door to unchecked increases in property taxes, with potentially devastating consequences for vulnerable members of our society.

Of particular concern is the risk of displacing seniors, the disabled, and other limited-income Oregonians from their homes as property taxes become limitless. For many of these individuals, their homes represent not just a place of residence, but a source of stability and security in their later years. It would be unconscionable to jeopardize their well-being in pursuit of short-term fiscal gains.

This is wrong for Oregon and it needs to be stopped. I implore you to reject HJR 201 and instead focus on solutions that promote responsible fiscal management while safeguarding the interests of all Oregonians. Our state deserves policies that prioritize fairness, transparency, and accountability, rather than ones that threaten to further burden those who can least afford it.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I trust that you will carefully consider the implications of HJR 201 on our state and its residents.

Sincerely,

John Kendall