

Submitter: Sean Humphreys
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HJR201

Letter in Opposition to House Joint Resolution 201 - 2024 Regular Session

Good Day,

I am writing this letter in opposition to HJR 201. As a concerned Oregon State resident and homeowner, I see this as a Bill without end and an additional tax to an already highly taxed state.

I fully support the law enforcement groups within our state that are already funded by our state. A state tax to fund public safety is something I believe we already have in place, but these groups have received budget cuts to minimize their effectiveness. I do not, however, support the idea of changing our Oregon Constitution for yet another tax in this state.

At this time, our state is divided more than ever in recent history. It is divided so greatly, that over half of the state is looking to secede from Oregon and become part of Idaho. In addition, for the first time in over a decade, Oregon has a population decline, due to people leaving the state, faster than those wanting to come. Why is this happening? I believe in part because people feel like they are not being heard, the cost of living is too high, and they are already being taxed far higher than other states. Do you want to push even more people out of this great state? Keep increasing and adding taxes and it will do this very thing.

In addition, Oregon already has one of the highest income tax (ranked number 6 highest currently) and still quite high property tax rates (ranked number 23) in the nation. Adding yet another tax would catapult it even higher into the unaffordable for home owners, which translates also into renters.

On top of this, we have seen costs skyrocket for utilities, insurance, food, and other, to the point where these items alone make it hard to live. Adding yet another cost makes it even harder to afford the day to day items, and for some, not affordable.

Finally, I believe this resolution does not have any bounds on what its purpose can be, or the extent to which the tax can be raised for whatever the purpose is. This is dangerous and leaves an open door to endless taxation without representation.

With all of these items, and the fact that this would be a change to the Oregon Constitution, I strongly oppose HJR 201.

Thank you and have a great day.

Regards,

Sean Humphreys