

Submitter: Erik Petersen
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HJR201

I wanted to express my non-support for HJR201 and the reasons why.

First, in Oregon the property owners and workers already shoulder a heavy tax burden in the amount we are currently taxed. At a time of exploding costs due to inflation as well as unaffordable housing and soaring rental costs, this does not help but only causes these issues to be exasperated. Oregon currently has the 4th highest rate of homelessness in the country. Lets not make ourselves #1 in this category by putting more financial stress on homeowners and renters who are already burdened. Certain “exemptions” and “assessments” can be provided it is mentioned in the resolution, but that is not really fair that they are exemptions or some would pay less but would still receive “public safety” while the rest of the property owners pay in full for it.

Second, this resolution is proposed for “public safety” and yet there is no mention as to specific policing problems or economic shortfalls which require this funding or which divisions/branches of law enforcement or areas of the state will receive this money. Not really fair to impose a tax but not mention who or which areas will benefit the most/least. Is it equitably shared within the state or do certain areas get the majority? My local county already collects property tax and does a good job at the local level with funding for public safety. Having the state collect it as well is really a double taxation.

Lastly, Oregon has a huge kicker refund for tax year 2023. If there is excess state tax that is being refunded then there clearly is not a need for more money at the state level to fund “public safety”. If you want more tax revenue might I suggest reforming the kicker tax system and adding “public safety” to the state budget.