

Submitter: Deb Merchant  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HJR201

My cousin in Washington State was stunned when I told him how much I pay in property tax. Yes, WA State has sales tax, and yet, I can see the day when I'll be forced to move from Oregon where I was born and raised simply due to increased property taxes. Here in Albany, where I've lived for almost 8 years, my taxes went up by almost \$1,000 in just one year. At 66 years old, I need to find a way to age in place because the cost of retirement is shocking and terrifyingly expensive. I'll continue to work until I'm simply not able to any longer, i.e., there is no such thing as retirement in my future and I've been earning an income for 50 years without a break.

We must find a way to tax tourists, as well as large businesses (big box stores, international businesses, etc.) and stop handing out corporate tax incentives to move here and set up shop. Please, let tourists with money to spend, and large businesses with deep pockets, pay a much larger share of taxes instead of people like me...the small individual who simply wants a roof over her head without the emotional worry about what life might be like in another year if she can't pay her tax burden - yes, it's a burden.

I'm already giving thought to where else I would move outside of Oregon. If this amendment passes, I'll have to begin my research in earnest right away, and plan to leave the only place I've called home for a lifetime. My mother lives in Eugene and would be left to her own devices - one more individual impacted by nothing more than a tax burden when she relies on me for assistance, which will only increase as she grows older.

Please, do the right thing for Oregonians by placing the tax emphasis on those with the financial resources to pay, and let individual homeowners stay where they want to live.