

Submitter: Commissioner Rod Taylor

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure: HJR201

The fact that the Oregon legislature would even consider forwarding a bill to add the burden of a statewide property tax on the shoulders of our already – overtaxed populace merely points up how very out of touch you are with those who you supposedly represent.

At every turn all we see is the continuation of a lack of representation that is in accord with the will of the people. The Oregon legislature clearly has no idea what the will of the people even means, and you all have completely lost your way.

The fundamental problem is that even though the vast majority of Oregon's counties are clearly conservative, Senate districts have been structured in such a way so as to negate that reality and continue to cram a leftist majority in the Senate down our collective throats.

Over and over again, the people of Oregon have spoken regarding additional taxation. We reject it, every time you try. I predict that if you all pass this monstrosity, you will forthwith be faced with county rebellions of a like you have never seen before, or even considered.

So far, my testimony may not sound neutral as indicated in my positional statement. In fact, it probably sounds quite opposed. The reality is I am neutral on this. While I absolutely despise the idea of foolish legislation like this product of wrongheaded groupthink and "consensus," I believe that if you move ahead with this it could very well prove to be one of the greatest moments in Oregon's history.

Let me explain: passage of HJR201, or even the advancement of it, will engender uprisings that could finally have some positive effect on the composition of Oregon's legislature. I believe this could be the straw that breaks the camel's back for the voters to finally see the absolute urgency of restructuring the legislature to provide for one senator per county. This is the single most significant thing that could happen to correct the course of this lost state.

One thing I have noticed since becoming a county commissioner is that every controversial idea coming out of Salem is oriented toward disempowering the counties and centralizing control in Salem. This is extremely distasteful, in fact nauseating to we the people of this once-great state. But you all have no idea that this is so, because you have become so comfortable in your bubbles of self congratulation, so drunk with the arrogance of your own power that you have no idea what is really happening among those you purport to represent.

So go ahead: pass this unjustified, egregious trespass on yet more of our liberties. Do it. I dare you. If you do, you most certainly will have a read on the credibility of the position I have stated here today. May God bless this state by exposing all of the corruption in your house.

Rod Taylor
Chair, Coos County Board of Commissioners