Submitter: Carlee Curtis

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure: HJR201

Opposing the state managing property tax rate increases hinges on several detrimental effects:

- 1. **Reduced Local Autonomy**: Centralizing property tax rate decisions strips local communities of their autonomy to tailor tax policies according to their specific needs and circumstances. Communities best understand their own fiscal requirements and should have the authority to determine appropriate tax rates.
- 2. **Inefficiency and Bureaucracy**: State management introduces layers of bureaucracy, potentially slowing down decision-making processes and leading to inefficiencies. Local governments are more agile and responsive to changing economic conditions, ensuring that tax rates can be adjusted promptly when necessary.
- 3. **One-size-fits-all Approach**: States imposing uniform property tax rates fail to account for regional variations in property values, economic conditions, and community priorities. What works in one part of the state may not be suitable for another, resulting in unfair burdens or inadequate funding for certain areas.
- 4. **Disincentive for Fiscal Responsibility**: When the state dictates property tax rates, local officials may become less accountable for fiscal decisions. Without direct responsibility for setting rates, there's less incentive for local governments to manage finances prudently and efficiently.
- 5. **Stifling Economic Growth**: Excessive property tax rates, mandated by the state, can deter investment and development. Businesses and homeowners may relocate to areas with more favorable tax environments, leading to stagnation and decline in regions with artificially inflated rates.
- 6. **Undermining Property Rights**: Property taxes are a significant component of property ownership costs. State-mandated increases can erode property owners' rights by imposing excessive financial burdens, potentially leading to foreclosure or forced sales.
- 7. **Political Interference**: Centralized control over property tax rates opens the door to political manipulation and favoritism. Decision-making may be influenced by political considerations rather than sound fiscal management principles, undermining trust in the system.

In conclusion, allowing the state to manage property tax rate increases jeopardizes local autonomy, leads to inefficiencies, promotes a one-size-fits-all approach, undermines fiscal responsibility, stifles economic growth, erodes property rights, and invites political interference. It's imperative to preserve local control over property tax policies to ensure accountability, responsiveness, and fairness within communities. Especially since there are plenty of bills that have passed supporting public safety.