

Submitter: Rachel Lytle
On Behalf Of: The Citizens of Oregon
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4136

I respectfully urge you to reject HB 4136, which would eliminate the mortgage interest deduction for residences other than a taxpayer's primary home. While I understand the intent to address housing affordability, this bill risks creating unintended harm for many Oregonians.

Second homes are not always luxury properties for the wealthy — they are often modest residences owned by working families, retirees, or individuals who have relocated for work but have not yet sold their prior home. Many rely on the deduction to offset the financial strain of maintaining these properties, especially during transitional periods, family caregiving, or seasonal employment.

Removing this deduction could:

Penalize families navigating job changes, divorce, or elder care.
Discourage investment in rural and vacation communities that depend on seasonal homeowners for economic stability.

Create financial pressure that forces premature or distressed sales, reducing property values and local tax revenues.

Rather than eliminating the deduction outright, I encourage exploring targeted reforms that address speculative investment without harming responsible homeowners. HB 4136, as written, risks doing more harm than good to Oregon families and communities.

I respectfully ask you to vote NO on HB 4136.