

Testimony for State Budget Committee Hearing, 16 October 2020

my name is Carol Menges. I rent my home at 306 S. Roosevelt St., Apt. 204, Boise. I've lived in Boise for fourteen years. I have grave concerns about the proposed changes for the state budget and how you will cover it.

It's not only home owners who suffer from property taxes increases, but renters too. Regardless of the way property taxes are figured, the truth is that many low, fixed-income homeowners and renters cannot afford to keep their homes, and they're squeezed out by the house of cards game of forgone taxes. It's not an Idaho value that only the well-endowed should be able to live here, but that is what happens when taxing a home becomes the favored cash cow. Especially when forgoing taxes in one year—which is “allowed”—may be clawed back in the future at any time. Property managers pass on the sudden assessments to renters in the form of ever-growing, substantial rent increases. My current home is now nearly twice as high as when I moved in 12 years ago when the rent was reasonable.

Idahoans need real and serious budget *reductions*, not clever ways to squeeze the citizens.

Tax exemptions given to corporations such as HP are outrageous! Their assessments seem to be shifted onto us who can least afford to carry their burdens, onto the homeowners and renters. Since when and by whom is this considered a good and right thing?

In the final analysis, the state gets its money from the pockets of ordinary citizens. Shifting line items on a budget onto the taxpayers through property taxes one way or another is a blatant disregard for the citizens who voted you into office. Squeezing property owners and renters until they bleed out and have to *leave* is patently *immoral*!