

Submitter: Ernest Yagger

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3755

As a senior I am normally in favor of a bill that offers property tax relief, but I oppose HB 3755 as written. Cities, School and Special Districts are funded by property tax and usually assisted by federal funding. In today's political reality federal funding is no longer assured. In its current form HB755 has the potential to severely reduce essential services by under funding agencies that provide public safety, education, and other necessary services to our Oregon communities.

I would hope rather than not passing this bill, the committee would amend it to include a household income limit much more inline with the limits in the state homestead property tax deferral program , as well as a real market value cap for property value. This would allow the seniors most in need to reduce what is often the major expense they face. While still supplying much needed revenue to those services that make our state livable.

On a personal note I would request another amendment to be considered. All too often as we age, we seniors find that homes that we chose, lived in and loved for many years are designed in a manner which we can no longer live in do to health issues that are out of our control. My wife and I live in a beautiful Oregon city, in a neighborhood we love, in a two story home. My wife is now restricted to a walker or a wheelchair and can only live in a third of our home. The property is fairly steep, so she no longer has access to the gardens and flower beds that she has always loved. I would hope that current and all future property tax relief or deferral programs allow for a one time transfer of benefits to another property due to health needs. I want to find and repurchase a home that meets her needs, but doing so loses us the benefits that are available to Oregon seniors for property tax relief.

I thank Chair Nathanson and Vice Chair Reschke and all committee members for reviewing this testimony. Also to Rep. Drazan for its sponsorship.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ernest Yagger