

Submitter: Julie Blackman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR1

I strongly support SJR 1 and would like to thank Sen. Hayden and the co-sponsors of this bill for raising an important issue.

As we approach retirement our household has watched our property taxes climb each year, at this point being by far our greatest household expense and far higher than any mortgage payment reached. We love our home, the property we have lovingly tended for decades, our neighborhood and our community connections. We designed our home to accommodate the aging in place of either a family member or ourselves. It's painful to realize that after a lifetime of working and saving we may very well not be able to afford to remain in this community and continue the life we have built here due to steeply rising property taxes.

We know others in the community who have struggled with this issue - it's not limited to a single demographic or neighborhood.

If this bill eventually becomes law it does NOT mean that those over 65 will no longer pay property taxes but rather that the burden will not rise as precipitously simply because their neighbor's home sells for an inflated sum.

Many other states afford relief to senior citizens that is available to all (except perhaps the most extremely wealthy). Many states offer homestead exemptions. Oregon does neither. It's time to re-examine this paradigm.