

Submitter: Kathleen Wilson
On Behalf Of: Seniors
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR1

Date March 24, 2025
Subject Senior Property Tax Freeze Bill
Contact: Angelita Sanchez
Contact: Senator Cedric Hayden's (R-Fall Creek)

Position on Measure: SUPPORT

Written Testimony

Attention Senate Joint Resolution -Senate Rules Committee

My name is Kathleen Ann Wilson. I have lived in Oregon since 2003 and purchased my home in 2012. My baseline property tax at that time for my property in Pendleton, Oregon Umatilla County, was \$1,841.26 now it has gone up to \$2, 381.73! My age currently is 75 years. I am a retired citizen.

I have been following Senator Cedric Hayden's Senior Property Tax Freeze Bill since 2019, and I support this bill because I think our property tax should be frozen at age 65, due to all the living increases that happen throughout the years. My only income is my Social Security each month. I fear that I will become a HOMELESS PERSON, within a few years because of the continued increase in property tax in Umatilla County, which is HIGH! Why is Umatilla County listed as the highest-taxed-priced County in Oregon?

I think you should consider this property freeze, especially for people who have paid off their mortgage in a timely matter. My mortgage is paid off!

I did notice that Oregon provides a property tax deferral program for seniors allowing them to defer taxes until the property is sold. Why would you consider that, and not this Senior Property Tax Freeze Bill? Can't you let retired people retire without being taxed into poverty and out of our homes?

If you look at the percentage of homeowners, a substantial percentage of the homeowners who are facing a property tax foreclose or tax lien sale are older homeowners who do not have mortgages on their homes.

The Homeless population is an expense burned to Umatilla County, and why would you add to it by accruing hundreds of more citizens to deal with, when you cannot give your paying seniors regarding their property taxes a BREAK!

Thank you, Registered Voter!
Kathleen Ann Wilson, property owner,
Umatilla County, Oregon.