

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

GREG GIANFORTE
GOVERNOR



KRISTEN JURAS
LT. GOVERNOR

June 20, 2025

The Honorable Brandon Ler
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

The Honorable Matt Regier
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Speaker Ler and President Regier:

During this legislative session, one of my top priorities was to deliver permanent and meaningful property tax relief for Montanans for the place they call home. I was proud to sign several bills into law this session that were recommended by the diverse, bipartisan Property Tax Task Force to do just that. Taken together, we provided a temporary property tax rebate and delivered a homestead property tax rate cut for Montanans for the place they call home, their primary residence.

House Bill 831 expands the elderly homeowners and renters tax program. Under current law, elderly Montana homeowners or renters, aged 62 or older, may qualify for a refundable income tax credit of up to \$1,150. House Bill 831 increases the tax credit and the income threshold in a way that will cost the state more than \$7 million over the biennium.

While I appreciate the sponsor's intent to ease the burden of property taxes for seniors, the program works well in its current form, and the Legislature this year passed meaningful, permanent property tax relief for Montanans living in their homes. Like other Montanans who are homeowners or renters, seniors, who are homeowners or renters, will see their property tax rates go down thanks to the measures the Legislature passed, and I signed into law.

Further, our Montana Constitution requires us to balance the budget. In 2021 and 2023, I am proud that we worked together to deliver balanced budgets that not only were fiscally responsible but allowed us to seize the opportunity to let hardworking Montanans keep more of what they earn. The budget proposal I sent to the Legislature for the 2025 Legislative Session was fiscally conservative, keeping spending below inflation.

The budget and other bills with hefty price tags that the Legislature passed, however, are not fiscally responsible. Therefore, I will keenly review the budget and spending bills the Legislature passed, making some difficult decisions to protect taxpayers and their hard-earned resources. Hardworking Montanans expect us to be fiscally responsible.

Therefore, in accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby veto House Bill 831: "AN ACT REVISING THE ELDERLY HOMEOWNER AND RENTER INCOME TAX CREDIT; REVISING THE DEFINITION OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME; INCREASING THE MAXIMUM CREDIT AMOUNT; REVISING THE PHASEOUT OF THE CREDIT; PROVIDING AN INFLATIONARY ADJUSTMENT FOR THE INCOME AT WHICH THE CREDIT PHASES OUT; AMENDING SECTIONS 15-30-2337 AND 15-30-2340, MCA; REPEALING SECTIONS 4, 5, 9 AND 10, CHAPTER 476, LAWS OF 2021; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY DATE."

Sincerely,



Greg Gianforte
Governor

Enclosure

cc: Legislative Services Division
Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State