

Ms Broniak: This message may be considered as written statement regarding the Senior Property Tax Deferral Measure scheduled to have first hearing in the Senate on Feb 15th.

We met all requirements and were approved for the deferral for the tax year 2010-2011 in Jefferson County and our taxes were paid under the program. With the changes that passed in the 2011 Legislature, we had to fill out re-certification and were denied, based on RMV (real market value) for our property because it is above the median RMV for Jefferson County and this is the only reason for the denial - we still met all of the original requirements. This particular change is discriminatory as the RMV and median value differ from county to county. It took several calls and talking to quite a few people to even find out what it was for Jefferson County

We sincerely hope the requirements will be retroactively put back as they originally were with the passage of this measure through both divisions of the State Legislature. This is an very important benefit for senior citizens and disabled citizens alike. With the cost of living what it is, including health care and medicine, we are fighting to keep our homes and having the deferral benefit in place helps us be able to stay in our homes. Social Security in no way provides the same standard of living we could enjoy while we were still fully employed. My husband and I have both had surgery and high medical costs in the last two years, over and above what insurance and/or Medicare paid. Having the tax deferral helped alleviate fears of not being able to pay our taxes and the denial for 2011-2012 was a real blow. Again we do hope this will be restored to previous levels.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jerry and Nancy Klatt Culver, Oregon