

Statement of Richard B. Pierce,

Member of the Alliance of Vulnerable Homeowners

In support of HB 2510-1

Before the

House Revenue Committee

Salem, Oregon

May 15, 2013

Chairman Barnhart, Vice-Chairs Berger and Bailey, and members of the Revenue Committee, my name is Richard B. Pierce. Thank you for holding this hearing. I am sorry I can't be there today to testify and answer any questions you might have. While I am losing a tooth today, through your support of HB 2510-1, I won't be losing my home.

The Deferred Property Tax Program allowed me, as a disabled veteran, to use money I had sequestered for taxes, to adapt my home to better enable me to live on my own. I am also one of those cited by David Raphael as a "*Dual Ineligibles*: Low-income homeowners who were removed in 2011 because of their reverse mortgages, and because of the new 5-year residency requirement."

I moved to the Portland, Oregon, area to be close to a Veterans Administration Hospital. I knew nothing about the program when I purchased my home. I believe in paying my taxes in person, and when I went to the Clackamas County Assessor's Office, I was signed up for the program. That freed up the money saved for taxes to make those changes that have saved me five times in the last two years. I have advancing neuropathy in both legs. Now I have things to grab onto when I begin to fall.

I can't tell you how important The Deferred Property Tax Program has become to me. I thank you for your consideration and support of this bill.

Richard B. Pierce

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