

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 621-5390
(530) 622-3645 Fax

James S. Mitrisin
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Ron Mikulaco
District I

Ray Nutting
District II

Brian K. Veerkamp
District III

Ron Briggs
District IV

Norma Santiago
District V

May 13, 2014

The Honorable Rich Gordon
California State Assembly
State Capitol Room 3013
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2231 (Gordon) – Sponsorship and Support
As amended April 21, 2014

Dear Assemblymember Gordon,

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors office supports AB 2231 to reinstate the Senior Citizens and Disabled Citizens Property Tax Postponement program and thanks you for authoring this important measure.

This critical program, in place for decades, provided a way for counties to remain whole even when low income seniors and disabled persons could not pay their property taxes. The Controller administered this program which provided funding to counties for those taxes, and held a lien on the property so that when the home was sold or transferred, the Controller recovered the cost of the loan along with a modest amount of interest.

In the February 2009, a decision was made to eliminate the Senior Citizens and Disabled Citizens Property Tax Postponement program administered by the State Controller's Office. This was a crushing blow to an already-vulnerable group of Californians. The program has earned revenue through loans that were paid off.

In these five intervening years, county treasurers have fielded hundreds, if not thousands, of panicked calls from low income seniors and disabled people, asking for some help to pay their taxes. The statute is clear regarding when and how property taxes must be paid, and what penalties are accrued when they are not paid timely. Without this program, it is very likely that a large number of homes owned by seniors and disabled persons' will become eligible for tax sale in 2014, due to five years of non-payment.

We commend your tenacity to reinstate this important program. It will keep seniors and disabled persons safely and comfortably in their homes. AB 2231 includes some tightened restrictions on who is eligible to participate in the program and increases equity requirements in order to address lien security concerns.

For these reasons, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support this measure. Approval of this measure will calm many fears and bring a tremendous and tangible relief to California's most vulnerable citizens.

Sincerely,

Norma Santiago
Chair, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

CC: Assembly Appropriations Committee