



Clatsop County

Board of Commissioners

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February 16, 2024

House Committee on Revenue
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-4048

RE: Support for HB 4056

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Reschke, Vice-Chair Walters, and members of the Committee,

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners urges your support for HB 4056 which creates a standard statewide process for county foreclosure surplus claims in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in Tyler v. Hennepin County.

Counties need an orderly claims process to have certainty about who refund checks should be distributed to and where checks should be mailed. Otherwise, counties will be drawn into litigation over surplus recipients.

Clatsop County manages tax foreclosures in accordance with existing law. At any given time, we have approximately 50 properties subject to foreclosure law, the majority of which get resolved prior to an actual foreclosure sale. Considerable time and effort are spent by the County to ensure property owners are able to keep their properties and lienholders are notified in order to protect their liens. When redemption is not possible, excess revenue from public auction or private sale of the properties is distributed to taxing districts or in some cases we are able to transfer properties to non-profit organizations for beneficial uses.

We need your help to establish a unified process that all counties can follow and that property owners affected by tax foreclosure can understand.

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners urges you to vote "yes" on HB 4056.

Respectfully,

Mark Kujala, Chair
Clatsop County Board of Commissioners