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GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX  
Chief Executive Officer

May 16, 2014

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

**RE: AB 2231 (Gordon) – As Amended April 21, 2014 - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblyman Gordon:

The County of San Bernardino supports AB 2231, which would reinstate the Senior Citizens and Disabled Citizens Property Tax Postponement (PTP) program to provide property tax deferral to seniors and disabled persons.

Prior to disbandment of this program, the State Controller provided funding to counties for those taxes and held a superior lien on the property. When the homes were sold or transferred, the State Controller recovered the cost of the loan along with a modest amount of interest. The program provided a direct grant to qualifying seniors and disabled individuals.

Since the elimination of this valuable program in 2009, San Bernardino County and other counties around the state have heard from hundreds of desperate seniors and disabled property owners who have been unable to pay their property taxes due to fixed incomes and the rising cost of living. Many face the potential auction of their homes. Prior to the disbandment of the PTP program, there were 354 program participants in San Bernardino County. Sixty-three of those participants have since defaulted on property taxes, and several are scheduled for the May tax sale. Unfortunately, more program participants will likely follow in the coming years.

AB 2231 is essential to keeping seniors and disabled persons safely and comfortably in their homes without fear of tax sale due to unpaid taxes. This legislation would also provide a mechanism for counties to remain whole even when low-income seniors and disabled persons are unable to pay their property taxes. The reinstatement of the PTP program would provide needed protection to seniors and disabled community members across the State.

For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino supports AB 2231 and thanks you for addressing this important issue. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs, at (909) 387-4821 or [jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov](mailto:jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov).

Sincerely,

JANICE RUTHERFORD  
Board of Supervisors Chair  
Second District Supervisor  
County of San Bernardino

c: Members and Consultants, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
County of San Bernardino Legislative Delegation