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**Testimony of Representative David Boyer
Presenting L.D. 1335 An Act to Amend the Property Tax
Stabilization for Senior Citizens Law
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation**

Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry and distinguished members of the Committee on Taxation, my name is Representative David Boyer and I am proud to present L.D. 1335 An Act to Amend the Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens Law.

Like many of you, as I went door-to-door, I handed out property tax stabilization applications and fielded questions about the new program. I told seniors about this new program and how their property taxes will be frozen at their current rate.

They thought it was too good to be true. Maybe it is. No doubt, this committee has its work cut out for itself. I do feel that a promise was made by the last legislature, and it's up to us to figure out how to pay for this program.

This bill makes three small tweaks to LD 290, which passed in the 130th Legislature. The first change will allow property in trusts to

qualify for the property tax freeze. I talked to a handful of seniors who already placed their home in a trust and may not qualify for the property tax stabilization. I think it is wrong to punish seniors who plan ahead.

The second change would specify that a married couple may not stabilize more than one property. There have been murmurs of this happening, so I think it is important to make sure this is prohibited.

Finally, it requires that each renewal application must contain information indicating any additions or improvements that have been made to the homestead since the previous application. If you have money to build a garage, for example, then you should have the funds to cover the extra property taxes that come along with the increased valuation. Ideally, this would be calculated based on the rates when the property was initially frozen.

These are common-sense changes to help preserve the property tax stabilization for years to come and for the people that need it most. I appreciate the time and consideration of the committee. Thank you.