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March 16, 2022

To: Chair Weber and Members of the Senate Subcommittee on Property Taxes

From: Cathy McLeer, State Director

Re: AARP Support for Senate File 3185

Dear Chair Weber and Members of the Committee,

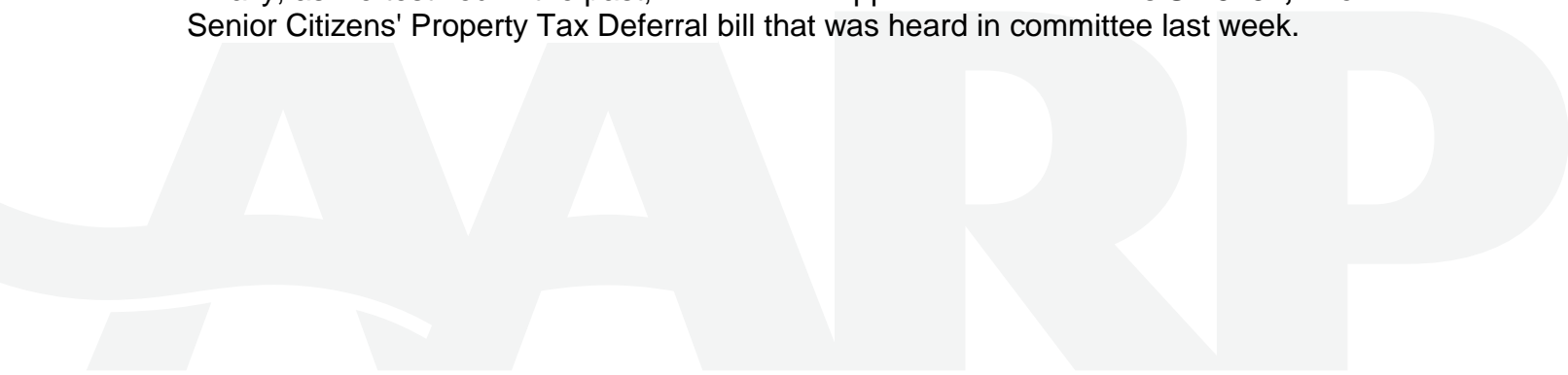
On behalf of our 640,000 membership, AARP appreciates the attention paid to reducing property taxes for seniors, as housing costs can be the largest expense for older Minnesotans and directly affect day-to-day financial security.

The vast majority of adults over the age of 65 want to stay in their homes as long as possible, and challenges like housing costs and financial uncertainty can put that possibility out of reach. Property tax continues to be among the most financially burdensome for low-income seniors on a fixed income and people with disabilities to absorb. As home values continue to spike, homeowners and renters alike can struggle to keep up with paying property taxes.

Overall, AARP believes circuit breakers, as envisioned in Senator Klein's **Homestead Credit Refund bill (SF3185)**, are among the most cost-effective approaches to property tax relief because they target assistance to households with the least ability to pay, rather than providing more expensive across-the-board relief to all taxpayers without regard to their payment capacity. This program is designed to provide relief to older homeowners who need it the most—those with low and moderate income.

Increasing the circuit breakers' maximum threshold and extending larger refunds would help ensure that older Minnesotans can continue to age in their own homes and communities. Similarly, this relief should be expanded to include property tax relief to renters through the Renters' Credit.

Finally, as we testified in the past, AARP also supports Senator Klein's **SF 3184**, The Senior Citizens' Property Tax Deferral bill that was heard in committee last week.



Together these bills will provide the chance for more of Minnesota's older residents to continue to age in their own homes and communities among family and friends, as well as offer an additional step toward remedying long-standing inequalities in the housing arena.

Thank you again for your time and attention to this important issue for seniors. If you have any questions please contact Mary Jo George, Associate State Director, Advocacy at 651-271-6586 or mjgeorge@arp.org.

