BEFORE THE TAX COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

)

)

In the Matter of the Protest of

Petitioner.

DOCKET NO. 1-899-045-888

DECISION

(Petitioner) protested the Intent to Deny Property Tax Reduction (PTR)

Benefit letter dated August 14, 2023. Petitioner disagreed that property values should be a consideration in determining the PTR benefit. The Idaho State Tax Commission (Tax Commission) reviewed the matter and issues its decision upholding the Intent to Deny PTR Benefit letter.

BACKGROUND

Petitioner submitted an application for the PTR benefit to the Boise County Assessor for 2023. Petitioner's application was sent to the Tax Commission for review and processing. The Property Tax Division (Property Tax), of the Tax Commission, reviewed the application and found Petitioner does not qualify for the benefit because the assessed value of his home is greater than the amount allowed by statute. Property Tax sent Petitioner an Intent to Deny letter informing him that he would not receive a benefit for 2023.

Petitioner protested, stating:

- They've had the same income since 2005.
- Their home was valued by comparing it to others that are in excess of 4,000 square feet.
- The lots that were sold in his subdivision are bare land, making the comparison unfair.
- They received the PTR benefit before "assets" were included in the law and it's not right.

Property Tax referred the matter to the Tax Commission's Appeals Unit (Appeals).

Appeals sent Petitioner a letter giving him options available for redetermining a protested Intent

to Deny letter. No response was received.

LAW AND ANALYSIS

During the 2023 Idaho legislative session, House Bill 292 amended Idaho Code section 63-

705(b)(2) to read as follows:

On and after January 1, 2023, if the current year's assessed value of the home owned by the individual, according to the current year's assessment notice, exceeds the greater of four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) or two hundred percent (200%) of the median assessed valuation for all homes in the county receiving the homestead exemption pursuant to section 63-602G, Idaho Code, then the individual will instead be referred to the property tax deferral program set forth in sections 63-712 through 63-721, Idaho Code. Using the current year's assessed values, each county shall report the median assessed value of all properties receiving the homestead exemption in such county as of that date to the state tax commission no later than the first Monday in June. Provided, however, the provisions of this paragraph do not apply to a veteran with either a service-connected disability of one hundred percent (100%) or a disability rating based on individual unemployability rating that is compensated at the one hundred percent (100%) disability rate, as certified by the United States department of veterans affairs.

During review of Petitioner's application and information received from the Boise County

Assessor's office Property Tax learned the 2023 assessed value of Petitioner's home was \$1,292,047 and 200% of the median value of homes in Boise County is \$968,290. With an assessed value of \$1,292,047, Petitioner's home exceeds the greater of \$400,000 or 200% of the median value of properties in Boise County.

Idaho Code section 63-705(b) describes the requirements, as it relates to current assessment values, for an applicant to qualify for the property tax reduction benefit. The requirements are very specific. The law must be followed as written. If the law is socially or economically unsound, the power to correct it is legislative, not within the powers of the Tax Commission. *John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co. v. Neill*, 79 Idaho 385, 319 P.2d 195 (1957).

CONCLUSION

The Tax Commission must follow the law as written. The 2023 assessed value of Petitioner's home exceeds the greater of \$400,000 or 200% of the median assessed valuation for all homes in Boise County receiving the homestead exemption. His application for a 2023 PTR benefit must be denied.

THEREFORE, the Intent to Deny Property Tax Reduction Benefit letter dated August 14,

2023, directed to

is hereby AFFIRMED and MADE FINAL.

An explanation of Petitioner's right to appeal this decision is enclosed.

DATED this _____ day of _____ 2024.

IDAHO STATE TAX COMMISSION

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this _____ day of _____ 2024, a copy of the within and foregoing DECISION was served by sending the same by United States mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to:

Receipt No.