

Honorable Craig Headland, Chairman

House Finance and Taxation Committee

Re: House Bill 1325

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

As you know I am the mayor of Jamestown. I am writing today on my own behalf to speak in opposition to this bill

I just saw this bill which is a very, very bad bill. Do you have any idea how many homeowners there are living in Jamestown that are 65 years of age or older.

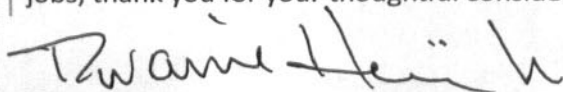
If you are going to put this in place then you must replace the lost taxes to the local political subdivisions with money from the state. If not you will be directly responsible for creating property tax increases for the hard-working folks who are under 65 years of age. Many of these younger folks do not have their homes paid for, they are often paying off student loans and/or are helping their kids through college.

Eliminating this source of revenue for local political subdivisions does not reduce the cost of government but only transfers that cost to other folks. Money is not saved by having Billy pay for Bobby's ice cream.

Now if you have money at the state level to replace these funds by all means go for it. If the intent is however, to pay for this on the backs of hard-working under 65 year years of age Jamestown residents this cannot be supported. Every action has a reaction. This action would cause a devastating reaction and harm to many.

We have the Homestead Tax Credit that is available to low income folks 65 years of age or older or who are disabled. This is a very poorly conceived plan, I do not know where it came from but I urge you to withdraw your support for this as it will injure many of the taxpayers you are in Bismarck to represent.

Again, I respectfully request that you reconsider your support for this bill. I know you all have difficult jobs, thank you for your thoughtful consideration.



Dwaine Heinrich

Jamestown Mayor

701-952-5931