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### **HB 1350 Testimony**

Finance and Taxation Committee:

My name is Emily Ramage Geltel. I am a member of the Williston Public School District #1 School Board, and am an attorney at law in Williston. I am writing to you today to vote for a favorable recommendation on House Bill 1350.

As you are aware, Williston has struggled for many years in building and maintaining adequate schooling facilities for our area. We have had numerous bonds to build a high school, an elementary school, and most recently, a bond to merely maintain schools—And, they have all failed by marginal numbers.

Coming from a Political Science background, I ask you this: Why should the threshold number to pass bonds for schools be any different from that of any other political threshold, specifically, the very same majority threshold to which you were all elected to office upon? The bottom line is that a majority of our constituents support the bonds to improve or build new schools—and the popular vote should be able to reflect that. The proposed language to House Bill 1350 helps us move in the right direction to measures supporting the will of the people.

The financial success of North Dakota depends on the financial success of Western North Dakota and our oil and gas production—Help us help ourselves and vote yes on House Bill 1350.

Respectfully,

Emily Ramage Geltel