



Allyn Sveen – Stanley City Auditor

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House Finance and Taxation Committee

HB #1372 - (1/27/2021 Hearing – 9:30 A.M.)

Dear Chair Headland and Honorable Members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee:

I am respectfully requesting you to support a **“DO NOT PASS”** on House Bill #1372 relating to an optional residential property tax freeze for owners who are age 65 or older.

Unlike HB #1325 as originally introduced, House Bill #1372 adds an income level not in excess of \$42,000. This income level does not change the fact that the tax burden is shifted to those under the age of 65 and/or to other classifications of property (agricultural and commercial). The testimony in opposition of HB #1325 presents many valid and logical reasons why HB #1372 should not be supported.

House Bill #1372 is not a fair taxation method. The State of ND already allows for property tax credits for senior citizens and disabled persons and veterans that meet qualifications. These credits are reimbursed by the State to political subdivisions and present no loss of revenue to political subdivisions nor do these credits shift the tax burden to other taxpayers. Maybe something similar should be considered for those over 65 at the State level without distorting property values and without having an adverse effect on taxpayers.

Please do not place this unnecessary burden on a select group of taxpayers nor distort the overall valuations within cities, your support for a **“DO NOT PASS”** on House Bill #1372 or to change wording to allow for a legislative management study as proposed in HB #1325, as amended, is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Allyn Sveen
Stanley City Auditor

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