

1 HB 1370- School Board Powers and Leasing of Real Property

2 West Fargo Public Schools – Levi Bachmeier, Business Manager

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4 Chairman Schaible, Members of the Senate Education Committee,

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6 Good morning. For the record, my name is Levi Bachmeier, Business Manager for West Fargo  
7 Public Schools. We respectfully request a ‘do pass’ recommendation on HB 1370.

8 In 2019, AT&T initiated conversation with the district regarding installation of an antenna at  
9 Sheyenne High School to ensure robust coverage with the emerging FirstNet emergency  
10 communications network.

11 AT&T has been a great partner to work with thus far, brainstorming unique solutions such as  
12 replacing our north western stadium light pole with a modified pole that houses both the field  
13 lights as well as the cellular antenna. I have attached a potential rendering of what the antenna  
14 pole could look like.

15 West Fargo Public Schools wants to host this modern technology, especially as it supports our  
16 public safety community. But current law at NDCC 15.1-09-33(7) currently limits the leasing of  
17 school board property to one year, which is problematic given the substantial capital investment  
18 required to ensure proper operations. AT&T has voiced concern with the current limitation in  
19 law to make such a substantial investment.

20 This bill would allow school districts to have the flexibility to lease modern telecommunications  
21 infrastructure, which is good for our students, our communities, and our public safety partners.  
22 HB 1370 would provide regulatory certainty that allows the private sector to make important  
23 emergency communications improvements in our community while adding value to the school  
24 district.

25 We respectfully request a ‘do pass’ on HB 1370. I am happy to stand for any questions.

