



HB 1419 City of West Fargo Testimony

Provided by Bernie L. Dardis – President, Board of Commissioners

HB 1419 is a proposed bill relating to the authority of a city to levy an infrastructure fee in lieu of special assessments. The City of West Fargo would like to go on record as being **Neutral** to the bill as it pertains to Section 40-05.1-06 and 40-12-02 as written for the following reasons:

The City recognizes the heavy burden of special assessments to property owners. The costs of improvements continue to rise and the City experiences unique circumstances to each road which can affect cost and timing of construction. Although the need for improvements and maintenance continue, the sources of revenue to pay for these needs have been limited and can at times be inconsistent. For those reasons, the City of West Fargo would like to offer the following amendments:

- On lines 12 through 14 page 6, replace the sentence as follows “*The fee must replace a general special assessment on all property for payment of infrastructure maintenance costs through a utility bill issued by a municipality.*” with the following sentence (addition underlined): “*The fee must reduce or replace a general special assessment on all property for payment of infrastructure maintenance costs through a utility bill issued by a municipality.*”
- On lines 22 and 23 page 9, replace the sentence as follows “*The fee must replace a general special assessment on all property for payment of infrastructure maintenance costs through a utility bill issued by a municipality*” with the following sentence (addition underlined): “*The fee must reduce or replace a general special assessment on all property for payment of infrastructure maintenance costs through a utility bill issued by a municipality.*”

Maintaining the ability of choice present in the bill is important for the City’s residents. We encourage the Committee to maintain this ability in the final bill.

The City appreciates your efforts and stands available to assist in any future discussions on the topic.