



February 6, 2025

Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
Bismarck, ND

RE: City of Minot Opposition for House Bill 1307

Dear Members of the Committee,

The City of Minot would like to express its opposition for House Bill 1307 introduced by Senators Hogue, Myrdal, Paulson and Representatives Kasper, Headland, Kempenich, Koppelman, Louser, Motschenbacher, Ruby and Steiner.

We believe should HB 1307 pass it will have impacts on the City of Minot and its' citizens the sponsors of this bill do not intend. The City of Minot strives to abide by the State laws of North Dakota enacted by the legislature as our primary course of action. However, there have been a few examples where Minot has used its home rule authority to supersede State law as has been allowed under the current laws regulating home rule cities in North Dakota. The examples we are aware of at this time are as follows:

1. NDCC 40-08-04 requires Council members to be elected by wards. Minot citizens chose not to use a ward system by ballot measure.
2. NDCC 40-08-18 restricts the Mayor to only vote in the case of a tie. Currently the Mayor votes on all actions taken by the City Council.
3. NDCC 40-08-24 gives the Mayor veto power. Current Minot City ordinances do give the Mayor veto authority.
4. NDCC 40-08-27 allows the Mayor to appoint police officers and the chief of police. Currently in Minot officers are hired similar to other City employees and appointed by the Chief of Police, and the Chief of Police is appointed by the City Manager and ratified by the Mayor and City Council.

HB 1307 states that "any ordinance enacted or adopted by a city under home rule charter in conflict with state law is void." This would void actions the citizens voted on and enacted as to how they wanted to elect their Mayor and Council, and the authorities given to them.

The City of Minot is also concerned the passage of this bill would nullify many of the benefits of being a home rule city. The citizens of Minot voted on becoming a home rule city so they could provide their community with local control and say into how they wanted their City government. This bill takes that control and say away from the citizens of Minot.

Given the unintended impacts and potential loss of local control of Minot citizens over how they elect their Council and the authorities of the Mayor the City of Minot respectfully requests a **Do Not Pass** vote on HB 1307,

Sincerely,

Harold Stewart, Minot City Manager