

Chairman Longmuir and Members of the Committee-

My name is Landon Rice from Edmore ND. I'm a member of the Edmore City Council, business owner on main street as well as a farmer in the Edmore School district with a young upcoming family. I'm strongly in favor of bill 2158. This bill gives not only our community but many others in this same situation in the future the chance to keep a school building open and operable for years to come.

As a member of the city council, our board has already discussed productive ideas of things we can utilize the building for when converting it to a "community center." I also have an idea list in my office that community members have contributed to over the last year since the school has closed. These ideas include a gym/workout facility (which is already setup and in operation now), golf simulator if we see fit, a grocery store, library, daycare as there actually is young families in the community. This building also provides adequate space for large events such as funerals, weddings & other social gatherings that may arise. I also know we have been asked by other neighboring schools to use our gym for practices or weekend tournaments as their gym space in their own towns is limited.

As the updated bill reads, a school district can give up to \$500,000 in cash assets to the city which is crucial for our already strapped financial condition. Keep in mind these funds are to NOT to be spent outside the school, they will strictly be utilized for school building upkeep, utilities and maintenance. If this is to pass, we already have a new board tentatively set to handle the means of this task. That board will consist of the mayor, 2 members of city council, 2 members of the school board and 2 or more members of the general public/community to make sure operations stay fair to all sides as best we can. With that will be a completely separate set of financials to make sure the funds are used in a proper manner and to what this was all intended.

Thank you for your time. If there are any questions, I will answer the best I can.

Respectfully,

Landon Rice

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