

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Andrea Pfennig, and I am the Vice President of Government Affairs for the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is North Dakota's largest statewide business advocacy organization, with membership represented by small and large businesses, local chambers, and trade and industry associations across the state. We stand in **support** of House Bill 1168.

Our members support an equitable, competitive, and consistent tax structure that fosters long-term revenue stability and provides certainty to businesses for sustained growth and investment.

We feel that HB 1168 accomplishes this by offering broad property relief. Businesses and homeowners alike utilize the services that property taxes provide. When considering tax relief, it is important to consider all sectors to ensure that the relief isn't creating a tax shift and unbalanced reliance on a portion of the taxpayers. Currently, centrally assessed and commercial properties contribute approximately 33% of the total. Homeowners provide approximately 36%. Local small businesses, cafes, and C Stores are vital to communities. We urge you to include them in the conversation.

HB 1168 offers long-term stability. This approach helps ensure that property tax increases and bond issues will not be born disproportionately by the business community in future years, an issue that has made business community investments in other states less attractive. Please note that we strongly believe that all property tax types should have some tax burden regardless of the type of property tax bill passed.

Finally, GNDC supports a cap on local spending, which we think is wise given the large amount of relief being considered.

We hope you give thoughtful consideration to HB 1168, and I will stand for questions.



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