

February 2, 2021

Sen. Randy Burckhard, Chairman

Political Subdivisions Committee

Re: SB 2139

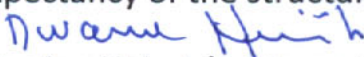
North Dakota Senate

Dear Chairman Burckhard and members of the committee.

I am writing to you today to speak in favor of SB2139. The Renaissance Zone legislation has been well received and utilized to cause a renewal in many of our North Dakota cities and as a result has extended the useful lives of many properties and central districts of those cities and fostered a much needed revitalization of our city centers. The process has as a bonus increased the tax base and added to the aesthetics and livability of our cities.

This legislation would do the same for some of our residential neighborhoods which should be revitalized as well. In many of these situations It currently does not make economic sense to rehab some of these structures as the cost can easily meet or exceed the value at completion of the rehab if done properly which is what we want to see. These old neighborhoods add to the historic character and economic viability of our cities and should be saved if possible. This legislation will help in that regard and if handled properly will also increase the tax base and help to maintain populations within our cities. Hopefully, this could in addition cause some infilling which would add to the positives.

The key here is the work done on these structures should be more than cosmetic to make them marketable but, to enhance both curb appeal and the life expectancy of the structure and/or its mechanical systems. Thank you.

  
Dwaine Heinrich, Mayor, City of Jamestown