

Donald W. Flaherty
Mayor

Candace Middlestead
Auditor

ellendal@drtel.net



City of Ellendale

Box 267
Ellendale, ND 58436

Phone 701-349-3252
Fax 701-349-3333
TDD 800-366-6889

www.ellendalend.gov

2023 House Agriculture Committee
Honorable Representative Paul Thomas, Chairman
North Dakota State Capitol

March 16, 2023

Dear Representative Thomas and Members of the House Agriculture Committee:

My name is Don Flaherty and I am the Mayor of the City of Ellendale. I am also the Director of Tax Equalization for Dickey County. I am writing to you today in opposition to SB 2279. I believe that the proposed addition to section 57-02-08 to provide a property tax exemption for the personal use of agricultural commodity structures on commercial property will have an impact on all types of cities in ways that cannot be fully anticipated without further study.

I commend Senator Myrdal for the changes she is proposing to her own bill for I believe they are a step in the right direction. My concern is that the concept may be good but the implementation can have adverse effects that have not been discussed and I would like to see any change of this type be thoroughly vetted before its implementation.

Cities will be concerned that an expansion of these types of structures will have a negative impact on current infrastructure and the emergency services that serve the area. This will lead to increased costs that cannot be off-set by a growing tax base since these buildings will no longer be a part that tax base. The advantages this exemption provides for a specific group of people will create an unfair advantage to other business in the area. In addition, there are health concerns and pest control issues that will be magnified by this exemption in ways yet to be determined.

The aspects of this legislation have a much further reach than is commonly understood and would have a huge impact on all the cities within the state.

Therefore, I would strongly recommend that SB 2279 be amended into a study so that a change of this magnitude may be better understood before it becomes law.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donald W. Flaherty".

Donald W. Flaherty
Mayor of Ellendale

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer"