

Testimony Presented on HB 1330 to the
House Finance and Taxation Committee
Representative Craig Headland, Chairman

Brenda Derrig, City Engineer for City of Fargo

January 17, 2023

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

The City of Fargo understands and recognizes that the process of special assessments is a long debated issue that is very complex. Fargo prides itself on longevity, consistency, and uniformity in regards to our infrastructure funding policy and our policy has been vetted and massaged a number of times over the past four decades, including a full-scale public review by a special assessment committee task force that included broad citizen representation that undertook an 18 month hearing process completed less than four years ago. Our Infrastructure Funding Policy has survived judiciary review up to the Supreme Court. HB 1330 as written threatens that.

The City of Fargo's Infrastructure Funding Policy refers to zoning in two aspects. First in the new build and reconstruction of arterial roadways. The City of Fargo has arterial assessment bands associated with the arterial roadways to guarantee that parcels are only assessed for one N/S and one E/W arterial road. These costs per front foot are capped by zoning category with City Funds covering the remaining cost. The second is in reconstruction of local and collector roadways. The costs per front foot are also based on zoning with City funding the remaining cost of the project. The funding split on these projects typically is 25% Special Assessment and 75% City Funded.

We seek your opposition to HB 1330 as written, which in its current form will threaten our city's special assessment policy that has been reviewed and updated many times since its origin in the 1970's and that has been endorsed in court for its longevity, consistency, and uniformity.