

SB 2367

Testimony to the House Finance and Tax Committee

March 13, 2023

David Steele Council Member City of Jamestown

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members. I am David Steele, Council Member serving for the citizens of the city of Jamestown, ND. I stand in opposition to SB 2367. Our city council has been very appreciative of receiving Prairie Dog funds to complete some of our, much needed, infrastructure projects, most notably the replacement of aged water mains. The use of Prairie Dog Funds has allowed the City of Jamestown to complete a few of the, much needed, projects and keep the tax specials applied to such projects greatly reduced to our residences and business owners by thousands of dollars. The goal of our city is to prioritize needed projects, use Prairie Dog funds and other sources, including low interest funds, to complete the projects with the least amount of property tax specials on property owners as possible. Delaying municipalities from receiving these funds by increasing the general funds, tax relief, and SIIF buckets will delay completion of projects, increase costs due to the delays, and will eventually cost the property owners more in tax specials. Increasing taxes on property owners is not what we want to do, yet these projects are necessary to be completed. The city of Jamestown could easily surpass \$40 million in needed infrastructure projects today. Please keep your municipalities and citizens in mind and keep the original intent of the Prairie Dog buckets intact. Defeat SB 2367.