

Mr. Chair and Members of the of the House Finance and Taxation Committee

My name is Scott Samuelson and I am in support of House Concurrent Resolution #3024.

My family and I have lived in Minot since 1989, purchased a home in 1992 and have lived in the same neighborhood for 30 years. Over this time, our Property Taxes have increased 447%. Throughout the state, Property Taxes have increased as the legislature has taken over all of Health and Human Services funding and a larger portion of school funding while trying to buy down Property Taxes by providing funding to cities and counties. This obviously has not worked. As I look through my property tax statements, I have seen continuous increases in my Property Taxes over the past 30 years. The Citizens of ND have been asking our Legislature do something to remedy the unjust Property Tax System for years. It is now time to Eliminate and replace Unfair Property Taxes with other funding sources.

Since 2009 the State of North Dakota has had record spending and record surpluses. There is over 14 billion dollars in different Government Funds. For the 2023-2025 biennium, Governor Burgum has proposed another increase in spending of over 1.5 billion dollars. This increase would amount to 75% of what would be needed to replace Property Taxes. It is past time for the Citizens of ND to directly benefit from our state's prosperity and time to Eliminate and Replace Unfair Property Taxes.

When cities and counties look at economic development, they offer property tax relief and other tax incentives. The State of North Dakota also gives tax breaks or tax incentives for economic development. Just imagine the economic boom if everyone in ND received property tax relief thereby providing increases in our state and local revenues.

I ask you to support a do pass vote on HCR 3024. I would also urge you to encourage your colleagues to support HCR 3024 as it moves forward, give the citizens a chance to vote.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Scott Samuelson

Minot