

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, for the record my name is Lori VanWinkle and I represent the wonderful and patriotic citizens of District 3 in Minot. I am before you today to urge a do pass on House Resolution 3024, which seeks to place the elimination of property tax on the ballot.

It is pretty well known that local communities give Property tax incentives to select winners via TIF, Renaissance zones, economic development, and abatement, all with a claim that this is an economic benefit to the whole.

If that is true then why wouldn't we give this benefit to every one and eliminate property tax for all?

Why do we persist in pretending this would be anything but amazing relief for everyone! We propose nothing but pacifiers to the people by offering tax cuts, but these cuts have never provided the relief and incentives that eliminating the property tax will.

As of February 24, 2023 Minot daily news opinion poll revealed 70% of respondents were in favor of eliminating property tax.

One large discrepancy of property tax is homeownership is never real. Our citizens are FOREVER renting from the government. This IS NOT individual liberty. Nor is it freedom to have the looming fear that after paying off a home, there still exists risk of government take over... or, the other alternative is to sell the home and find something smaller.

If you are forced into something, or your property you paid for can be taken away from you without your consent, you have lost your liberty. The government owns our purchases and property tax is using citizens to fund their operating expenses.

I want to remind you, our founding fathers fight the revolutionary war to free us to have liberty, freedom, and be property owners. This was one of the greatest blessings to our civil society. Establishing our independence, and securing property, ultimately upholds the ability to pursue happiness.

Citizen's of ND were supposed to be the benefactor of the states wealth. This would be such an incredible financial boost and benefit to our citizens, an economic surge to our communities, and make ND one of the

most attractive states to live, start a business, raise a family, and attract new corporations.

The citizens have labored and toiled by the sweat of their brow. Yet this body our legislative body is spending money out of control, with no regard for answering the cries for relief from the people.

Why?

This year we have a record spending budget in the billions, 20 billion as of cross over, that's 4 billion more than last biennium, the amount we are spending above last year.

We are committed to funding current and future government growth than reducing it.

We are constantly becoming less concerned about the ND citizens.

It is our responsibility to help our citizens, and upholds individual liberty.

It will be so helpful to citizens who make sacrifices just to make ends meet, have more opportunity as well as true homeownership. Families who have decide to have two income earners during the most important child rearing years, might actually be able to allow a parent to stay at home and raise their children. Those who can't afford a private education but want one, may be able to provide for one. Those who aren't able to purchase appropriate insurances, may have more ability, Those worried about keeping their home over purchasing necessary medicine, would not have to chose one over the other.

Members of the committee, please remember why you wanted to serve in this assembly. You came to represent the people, Let's serve the people, and not our peers. I implore you, vote a Do Pass on HR 3024, and let the vote go to the people.