



House Political Subdivisions Committee – HB 1237

Representative Donald W. Longmuir, Chair

January 19, 2023

Chairman Longmuir, Members of the Committee:

My name is Brian Ritter and I am the President & CEO of the Bismarck Mandan Chamber EDC. Please accept the following testimony on behalf of our organization's more than 1,200 members in support of HB 1237

During the 2019 and 2021 Legislative Sessions, our organization was a strong supporter of legislation that would enable communities like Bismarck and Mandan to ask for voter approval of a street utility fee. Also known as an infrastructure fee, this monthly charge on a community's utility bill is envisioned as an alternative to special assessments that would provide more certainty for both property owners and political subdivisions.

Political subdivisions such as park and school districts also pay special assessments and if the voters of a community elected to enact an infrastructure fee, would pay those as well. HB 1237 simply ensures that those affected political subdivisions could pay an infrastructure fee in the same manner, and with the same funds, as they would a special assessment.

As such, I would respectfully ask that the Committee give a DO PASS recommendation to HB 1237.