

Representative Mike Schatz

House District 39

Testimony for HB 1462

HB 1433

Chairman Longmuir and members of the House Political Subdivisions Committee,

For the record, I am Rep. Mike Schatz from New England, ND and I represent District 39 in the southwest corner of the state.

HB 1433 is a bill that will require the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections to sell land on both sides of the Missouri river. The Missouri River Correctional Center comprises approximately 900 acres in south Bismarck and a large portion of river front property. The Youth Correctional Center in south Mandan is comprised of approximately 1800 acres.

The idea behind selling these two parcels of land is twofold. First, because they are very valuable and will make the state a great deal of money, the state will be able to build new facilities for MRCC and YCC.

Second, because the Bismarck/Mandan communities are the fastest growing cities in the region, this property will make way for more housing and expansion. To have correctional centers surrounded by residential areas doesnt make much sense.

My proposal would require the DOCR to relocate MRCC and YCC to state land in Burleigh or Morton Counties and construct new buildings. My recommendation is that they use steel buildings which are very large, open, and less expensive than traditional brick and mortar facilities. I have included maps of all the state land in both Burleigh and Morton counties on the testimony page on your computer.

As many of you may know, New England currently is home to the womens prison and I feel the people there do an outstanding job. DOCR has a plan to build a \$161 million facility for women in Mandan, but I say, why are they trying to fix something that isnt broken. However, New Englands facility is a womens prison and not a mental hospital. It is my feeling that prisoners with mental health issues should be in a secured facility at the State Hospital in Jamestown. Perhaps the sale of this land will render enough for all the needs of the DOCR.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I will answer any questions I can