

January 25, 2023

Sen. Larry Luick and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Veteran Affairs Committee
Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

Re: Senate Bill 2279
SUPPORT Letter

Senators Larry Luick and Members

My family has been raising potatoes in the Crystal area for over 70 years. When potatoes were first grown, the only mode of transportation was the railroad. Therefore, all the potato storages were built on or near a railroad for access to transportation. Most of them were on Railroad Lease property out of necessity and were therefore considered commercial property.

As the industry has grown the warehouses have grown in size and most of the lease property has been bought by the farmers. Since the farmers now own their property, they should no longer be considered commercial property. They are storing only their own potatoes and not using the warehouses commercially by using them for storing other people's potatoes.

The storages should be considered part of their larger farm unit because without them they wouldn't be raising potatoes. Therefore, these warehouses should be considered agricultural exempt and should not be taxed commercial.

This needs to be clarified because not all storage in the state is treated equally.

I respectfully request the ND Senate Agriculture and Veteran Affairs Committee votes to **support SB 2279**

Sincerely,

David Moquist
Crystal, ND
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