



Contact:
Matt Perdue, Lobbyist
mperdue@ndfu.org | 701.641.3303

**Testimony of
Matt Perdue
North Dakota Farmers Union
Before the
House Finance and Taxation Committee
January 14, 2025**

Chairman Headland and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1176. My name is Matt Perdue, and I am testifying on behalf of North Dakota Farmers Union's (NDFU) members. NDFU supports HB 1176. We strongly encourage the committee to build upon the legislation to provide broad-based tax relief for North Dakota taxpayers.

During our most recent annual convention, NDFU's members approved a special order of business declaring property tax relief and reform as our top priority for this legislative session. That special order supports the Primary Residence Credit and efforts to slow the growth in the property tax burden. Both of those proposals are included in HB 1176.

However, we are concerned by the inequities HB 1176 creates. The legislation creates a path to zero property taxes for homeowners. However, it does not provide relief for owners of agricultural property. We encourage the committee to address these inequities by:

- Providing similar relief for active farmers and ranchers, and
- Limiting the property tax credit to a certain percentage of a taxpayer's liability so all taxpayers have "skin in the game."

While we support efforts to slow the growth in the property tax burden for taxpayers, we recognize that caps on levy increases could have negative impacts, particularly on rural communities. If HB 1176 passes we believe it is important for the legislature to make strong investments in rural infrastructure and services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1176. We look forward to working with you to build upon this proposal and provide meaningful broad-based tax relief. I will stand for any questions.