



Administration

House Finance and Taxation Committee

HB 1146

Representative Headland Chair

January 14, 2025

Chair Hedland and members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee.

My name is Jim Neubauer, City Administrator for Mandan and I offer testimony in a neutral position to House Bill 1146. The legislative priority of providing property tax relief is much appreciated.

A few items to note on how the proposed 3% increase cap would affect the City of Mandan:

- The 3% cap would amount to an approximately \$209,000 increase in the General Fund.
- A 2% cost of living increase for full time employees in the General Fund is approximately \$171,000. This does not include any increase in health insurance premiums.
- The City of Mandan continually competes with the City of Bismarck and the State of North Dakota for employees, not being able to offer competitive wages in this arena would hamper our ability to attract and retain employees.
- The City of Mandan is planning for the construction of a 3rd fire station in the northwest part of town as response times to this area have become an issue. The 3% cap would significantly affect our ability to provide staff as fifteen new positions would be needed.
- The City of Mandan will inherit, from the North Dakota Department of Transportation the maintenance (snow removal, sweeping, storm sewer cleaning etc) when reconstruction is completed of Memorial Highway (the Strip). This is an additional 10 miles of existing roadway maintenance which will require additional equipment and manpower to service. The 3% cap will not provide the funding to do so.

The above situations are examples of how the proposed 3% cap would affect the City of Mandan's ability to provide the essential public services that our citizens both deserve and expect.

Thank you for your consideration in adjusting the proposed the cap.