

Chairman Headland and members of the Finance and Taxation Committee. My name is Christina Wolff I represent District 38 which covers parts of Minot, Burlington, De Lacs, Foxholm and part of the Minot Air Force Base.

Today I am introducing HB1502 that was requested by Mike Blessum a constituent from Minot, and he is here to testify on his own behalf.

The bill says first that the State appropriations for the general budget in a biennium be restricted to 3% of the last approved general budget appropriation.

Second it allows for any of the 3% that is not used in a biennium to be carried over for a maximum 3 bienniums.

Third to allow for an increase above the 3% if approved by a 2/3 vote of both chambers.

My understanding is that the intention of this bill is to match any restrictions that are placed on political subdivisions in other property tax bills being proposed in this session, However I believe that we owe it to our taxpayers to be more responsible in our spending and if a 3% cap is the best we can do then we should do it.

Thank you for your time Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I stand for questions.