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Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 4:17 PM
To: Hagert, Jared <jhagert@ndlegis.gov>
Cc: Linda Svihovec <Linda.Svihovec@ndaco.org>
Subject: HB 1572 suggestions

Rep. Hagert,

We appreciate you bringing forward HB 1572 and opening the discussion on what levies should be a responsibility of the counties and what can be removed. We have a couple recommendations for you if you want to move this bill forward.

In Section 7 –

We would suggest providing state appropriations directly to budgets associated with NDSU Extension and Garrison Diversion rather than have the state reimburse the counties. This will be easier to administer and appearance-wise won't give the impression the state is buying down levies. It's tax relief by eliminating a tax local taxpayers will be paying for and reform by eliminating it as a levy.

Many counties contribute additional funds through their general fund. Would this continue or would you want to include that dollar amount. Suggested to NDSU Extension for them to add that general fund dollar amount into their budget request.

In Section 8 -

Recommend amending this into a study. We also agree that many of these items should be accomplished but in order to have the best product - it would be beneficial to have a working group of legislators, auditors/treasurers, tax commissioner's office and other taxing district representatives to develop a plan, identify necessary software or technology improvements and costs associated to bring to forward to the 70th Legislative Assembly.

In Section 17 –

Recommend having the working group as suggested in Section 8 also work on changes to the tax statement and estimated tax notice. As changes to these documents should be thought out and vetted to address what Legislature wants to accomplish along with the workability of it with auditors/treasurers and the costs for programming. A thoughtful process on what these important documents should entail is necessary to avoid continuous changes.

If you were wanting to move on Section 8 & 17 instead of having it wait until next session we would have suggestions for you to improve these areas and would appreciate the opportunity to address those in more detail. A couple recommendations are:

- Section 8: recommend sticking with tax levies vs budgets. Taxes levied better reflects what impacts taxpayers.
- Section 17: Remove: 1 (d) name and phone number of a contact person for each taxing district that levied. (information not obtained/tracked by county)
- Section 17: Listing each individual voter approved levy may be difficult and consume the tax statement for a political subdivision like Cass County with a large number of taxing districts.