

March 7th, 2025

Dear Chairman Weber and members of the Senate Finance and Taxation Committee ,

I am writing to ask your committee to amend HB 1176. On Page 23 Line 28-31 and P 24 line 1-22 please go back to the original words. I am currently a Township Assessor for 21 townships in Burleigh county. Many of the townships have over 100 parcels in their township. The cost of printing and mailing letters out to every parcel will be a burden on some of these townships that are mostly farm land and farm exempt homes. Many townships run a very lean budget with no room for extra costs. The majority of the townships I work for are already at the cap of 18 Mill Levy for townships.

Sending letters every year when no changes have been made is a waste of paper and time. Sending out notice when there is an increase has been working for years. When an increase happens is when taxpayers want to know.

Remember the equalization meeting is noticed in the paper and often talked about during the March Annual Meetings for townships, I have some that even post flyers at the post office and local Cenex. So owners can find the date and time if they would like to attend the meeting.

In my 25 years of Assessing there has only been a handful of times that owners came to the equalization meeting to talk about their increase. I can not imagine owners getting a letter stating no changes would cause them to attend the Equalization meeting.

Please consider going back to original wording on P23 line 28-31 and P24 line 1-22 to help local townships. Also it just doesn't make a lot of sense if there are no changes or a decrease in value (yes that happened in 2024 with Ag Values) to receive a letter .

Sincerely ,

Marie Horning
Assessor