

1 North Dakota School Study Council Neutral Testimony of HB 1176 – Property Tax
2 Relief

3 Chairman Weber and Members of the Committee,

4 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1168, which addresses
5 property tax relief. My name is Paul Stremick and I represent the North Dakota
6 School Study Council.

7 Many patrons seem most concerned about relief for their primary residences,
8 which is an important consideration. HB 1176 addresses the issue of the primary
9 residence quite well.

10 While I understand the intent of HB 1176 to provide property tax relief, I am
11 particularly concerned with how it applies to the broader impact it may have on
12 school funding. The proposed caps in HB 1176 present significant challenges for
13 school districts. These caps could have a major negative impact on the school
14 funding formula, limiting the ability of districts to maintain high-quality education
15 programs. School districts that have been responsible stewards of taxpayer
16 money should not be penalized for their efficiency and sound financial
17 management. The funding constraints imposed by these caps could hinder their
18 ability to meet the needs of students, recruit and retain quality educators, and
19 sustain essential services.

20 I urge the committee to carefully evaluate the long-term implications of HB 1176
21 on public education and consider alternative solutions that provide tax relief
22 without jeopardizing school funding. I appreciate your time and consideration of
23 these concerns and welcome any questions or opportunities to further discuss
24 this issue.

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26 Dr. Paul Stremick