



HOUSE BILL NO. 1176
SENATE FINANCE AND TAX COMMITTEE
MARK WEBER, CHAIR
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SECOND ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 1176
MARCH 17, 2025

Chairman Weber and members of the Senate Finance and Taxation Committee. My name is Parrell Grossman, and it is my privilege to be the Legislative Director for the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association. I appear in support of Second Engrossed House Bill 1176, with amendments.

The Association advocates for more than 8,900 operations that raise soybeans in North Dakota. In 2024, North Dakota soybean farmers planted 6.6 million acres of soybeans, producing over 245 million bushels of soybeans in North Dakota.

The agricultural economic impact in North Dakota. NDSU's 2024 North Dakota Agriculture Industry Economic Contribution Analysis reported that the economic contribution to North Dakota is \$41.3 billion, including \$26 billion from direct output and \$15.3 billion from secondary output. The report also concluded that this economic contribution included 46,620 direct jobs and 76,740 secondary jobs for total jobs of 123,360.

The House passed Engrossed Bill Nos. 1168 and 1575 be, and Second Engrossed Bill No. 1176, believing all the Bills have some merit. The House wanted them to "stay alive," despite knowing that, in the end, the Senate could defeat some or all of the Bills or possibly merge the best parts of each Bill. Respectfully, you have a daunting task with your decisions.

The Association and our agricultural commodity groups or friends are aware that, with the recent defeat of Measure 4 in the rearview mirror, property owners are expecting property tax relief. No doubt, citizens with primary residences are eagerly anticipating the primary residence property tax credit that the Governor and legislators promised.

The Association appreciates that you will want to, and should, deliver this tax credit. Nonetheless, agricultural landowners, most of whom answer to the names of “farmers” or “ranchers,” also would appreciate the same consideration with some property tax relief. It’s a matter of fairness and equity and these agricultural landowners are entitled to some measure of property tax relief, too.

As this Committee is aware, the Association also supports Engrossed House Bill 1168 because it provides property tax relief to primary residential, agricultural, commercial, and centrally-assessed property owners.

Engrossed House Bill 1168 would complement Second Engrossed House Bill No. 1176 if both are enacted, possibly with some adjustments.

Thank you very much as you listen to testimony that undeniably is duplicative and must sound like a broken record from the 1960s era. Thank you for the patient, considerate, and thoughtful manner in which you, nonetheless, listen to our testimony. In the end, we are only trying to deliver the message, the ask, that our constituents with agricultural property, your same constituents, are asking you to do.

For the reasons stated, the Association respectfully asks the Senate Finance and Taxation Committee to give Second Engrossed House Bill 1176 a “Do Pass” recommendation, with the requested amendments.

Thank you for your attention and consideration and I will try to answer any questions.