MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION
SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M

ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

1449

2005 HOUSE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

HB 1449

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1449

House Political Subdivisions Committee

❑ Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 27, 2005

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	x		46.1 to end
1		x	0.2 to 12.5
Committee Clerk Signature	Lawrence E. Fiske		

Minutes: **Rep.Devlin, Chairman** opened the hearing on HB 1449, A Bill for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 2 of section 11-11-53 and subsection 57-15-06.7 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to county levies for historical works; and to provide an effective date.

Dean Pearson speaking for the Historical Society of Bowman county spoke in support of the bill. A copy of his written statement is attached. Included with Mr. Pearson's state are written statement from other Historical groups from around the state. Essentially the bill would increase the mil from the present ¼ mils which can only be increased with a 60% vote of the people. They are asking to remove the 'super majority' to a simple majority.

Committee discussion in the form of question and answers with those testifying throughout the hearing centered mainly on what the counties were doing currently --- whether they are all levying the limit; the experience (success) they have had in election to increase the funding levels and whether their is public support; concern for increasing property taxes; whether there had been much success with find raiser, local and private contributions and support.

Terri Thiel Executive Director of the Dickinson Convention and Visitor's Bureau spoke in support of the bill. She emphasized the favorable tourist impact from historical site and museum. A copy of her statement is attached.

Claudia Berg director of the Museum and Education Division, State Historical Society of North Dakota. A copy of her written remarks is attached. There was considerable discussion with Ms. Berg as she was knowledgeable of projects and activities throughout the state in addition to what the State is and has done.

Testimony and discussion continue through to the end of Side A and continue on Side B to (12.5) . There being no further testimony for nor against HB 1449, **Rep.Devlin, Chairman** Closed the hearing on HB 1449 (12.5).

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1449 b

House Political Subdivisions Committee

❑ Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 3, 2005

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	x		50.2 to end
1		x	3.6 to 12.1
Committee Clerk Signature			

Minutes: **Rep.Devlin, Chairman** opened the discussion for action HB 1449. Having talked to some counties they wanted to increase the mil levy from ¾ of 1 mil to 5 mils. The question is whether the committee wanted to allow the counties to go to 5 mils or as an alternative does the committee want to allow 5 mils if there is a super majority of 60% voter approval

Rep. Herbal, Vice Chairman (8.1) moved an amendment that on line 16 remove the overstrike on '60 % " ' strie out " a majority" and the same on line 22 and line 23 **Rep. Pietsch** Seconded the motion. On a voice vote the motion carried. **Rep. Kretschmar** moved a 'Do Pass as Amended' . **Rep. Maragos** seconded the motion. On a roll call vote the motion carried **8 ayes 0 nays 4 absent. Rep. Zaiser** was designated to carry HB 1449 on the floor. **End of record** (12.1) .

50740.0101
Title.0200

Adopted by the Political Subdivisions Committee
February 3, 2005

House Amendments to HB 1449 - Political Subdivisions Committee 02/03/2005

Page 1, line 1, remove "subsection 2 of section 11-11-35 and"

Page 1, remove lines 5 through 18

Page 1, line 22, remove the overstrike over "~~sixty percent~~" and remove "a"

Page 1, line 23, remove "majority"

Renumber accordingly

Date: February
Roll Call Vote:

2005 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1449

House POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number amend Sec 16 + 22 + 23 — Hist - Pietsch - 2nd Sec — Carried -

Action Taken Do Pass as Amended

Motion Made By Rep Kret Seconded By Rep. Maragos

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Rep. Devlin, Chairman	✓		Rep. Ekstrom		
Rep. Herbel, Vice Chairman	✓		Rep. Kaldor	✓	
Rep. Dietrich			Rep. Zaiser	✓	
Rep. Johnson	✓				
Rep. Koppelman					
Rep. Kretschmar	✓				
Rep. Maragos	✓				
Rep. Pietsch	✓				
Rep. Wrangham					

Total (Yes) 8 No 0

Absent 4

Floor Assignment Rep Zaiser

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1449: Political Subdivisions Committee (Rep. Devlin, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (8 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 4 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1449 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, remove "subsection 2 of section 11-11-35 and"

Page 1, remove lines 5 through 18

Page 1, line 22, remove the overstrike over "~~sixty percent~~" and remove "a"

Page 1, line 23, remove "majority"

Renumber accordingly

2005 SENATE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

HB 1449

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1449

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date March 3, 2005

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	X		3441 - 5629
Committee Clerk Signature	Shirley Berg		

Minutes:

Chairman Cook opened the hearing on HB 1449 relating to county levies for historical works. Five members present and one absent.

Representative Keith Kempenich, District 39, introduced HB 1449. The bill is self explanatory. The bill is trying to move the mill rate up to five mills. One of the arguments was in counties around the state some of the larger counties it does not take much of a mill to generate the funds and in smaller counties it takes more mills.

Dean Pearson, President Bowman County Historical Society testified in support of HB 1449. (See attachment # 1) Along with his testimony there are five letters of support from the local community.

Chairman Cook: In the county I come from property taxes are a very sensitive issue. People think their property taxes are way to high. Is that feeling prevalent in Bowman County also?

Dean Pearson: I think people have a legitimate concern about property taxes but a lot of times the tax is the only thing that is fare to get additional revenue for the Historical Society. Again this bill would still be going through the vote of the public.

Chairman Cook: If you were to go to the voters in Bowman County to meet the needs of your historical society. What do you think you would be asking the voters to approve?

Dean Pearson: I really don't have a feel for it now, but I would say about two mills would be a start.

Senator Dever: What are your other sources of funding?

Dean Pearson: We can get up to a maximum of five thousand right now from the general fund. On top of that we can get up to one quarter of one mill besides. So for Bowman county the maximum amount of dollars that we could get would be $7285.00.

Senator Gary Lee: If you had this vote what kind of participation rate would you have in the county? How many people would vote?

Dean Pearson: The population of the county is about 3500 and I would say around fifty percent.

Claudia Berg, Director of the Museum and Education Division, State Historical Society of ND testified in support of HB 1449 (Attachment 2A) She also passed out testimony from Wes Anderson, Barnes County Historical Society, Valley City (2B) and also State Historical Directory (2 C).

Senator Dever: Does the state provide grants or funding?

Claudia Berg: Yes, in this current biennium, the historical society for the very first time was given grant money. There was $75,000 given out state wide. It was enough to under write twenty grants and we had a request from eighty organizations. The largest number did not

receive funding. We have asked for additional grant money this biennium as well. So far that has been increased by a house committee.

Senator Triplett: Can you describe what people ask for in those grants?

Claudia Berg: It was a wide range, anything from a one day program festival to working with their collections, buying shelving to store things, produce exhibits, and capital improvements.

Senator Gary Lee: In looking at Wes Anderson from Barnes County testimony, it looks like they have tried a few times to increase their mill levy to the amount that is already in the bill and have had no success. What do you think the sense is that you will be able to increase that mill levy across the state?

Claudia Berg: It often takes three or four times taking it to the voters for it to pass. Sixty per cent for some of the smaller organizations is a huge hurdle to overcome.

Terry Traynor, Association of Counties provided information on HB 1449. (See attachment # 3)

No further testimony on HB 1449.

Chairman Cook closed the hearing on HB 1449.

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1449

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date March 18, 2005

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	X		2183 - 3490
Committee Clerk Signature	Shirley Borg		

Minutes:

Chairman Cook asked the committee to go to HB 1449 for discussion. This bill is relating to county levies for historical works.

Chairman Cook: The bill deals with raising the mill levy cap for historical works from three quarters of one mill to five mills.

Senator Triplett: It seems to me that this is a useful tool for counties if a particular county wanted to make tourism a significant piece of their community.

Senator Dever: No counties are approaching their cap now. Their cap is at three quarters of a mill and Bowman counties is at .26 mills.

Chairman Cook: A county could use general fund dollars for this also.

Senator Hacker moved a Do Not Pass on HB 1449.

Senator Dever seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Senator Triplett: As part of the discussion would people be willing to accept an amendment that offered a lesser amount then five mills.

Senator Hacker: If you look at taking a vote of the people for four thousand dollars it isn't worth it to spend the money

Senator Cook: Senator Triplett, when I look at combinding mill levies I see this one here at one quarter of a mill or three quarters of a mill. This is a category I would eliminate and fund it out of the general fund.

No Further discussion:

Roll call vote; Yes 5 No 1 Absent 0

Carrier: **Senator Cook**.

Date: 3-18-05
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2005 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1449

Senate **Political Subdivisions** Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Not PASS

Motion Made By Senator Hacker Seconded By Senator Dever

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Dwight Cook, Chairman	X				
Senator Nicholas P. Hacker, VC	X				
Senator Dick Dever	X				
Senator Gary A. Lee	X				
Senator April Fairfield	X				
Senator Constance Triplett		X			

Total **Yes** 5 **No** 1

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Senator Cook

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1449, as engrossed: Political Subdivisions Committee (Sen. Cook, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (5 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1449 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2005 TESTIMONY

HB 1449

January 24, 2005

Chairman William R. Devlin
Political Subdivisions Committee
House of Representatives

Dear Chairman and Committee Members;

My name is Dean Pearson and I am here before you today to ask your support of House Bill 1449. With the adoption of this bill, local residents could ask the County Commissioners to pass a resolution allowing the taxpayers of the county to place a tax levy on the ballot increasing the support currently available, or obtainable, for historical society work.

Legislation is currently in place that allows the County Commissioners to provide ¼ of one mill to historical societies for historical society work, without a vote of the public. To increase this support, an initiative must pass the voters by a 60% super majority, and then it would only increase the levy to ¾ of one mill maximum.

For smaller, rural counties it is hard to find monies to support historical society work and do preservation. In these rural counties even ¾ of one mill is a small amount of funds to work with. For example, in Bowman County ¼ of one mill is equal to about $2285. For us to go through the work of voting in a raise of ½ of a mill to the maximum of ¾ of one mill by a super-majority of 60%, only to obtain an additional $4570 barely seems worthwhile. Larger populated counties have more monies to work with as their mill levies are worth more, thus they can do more under the current legislation.

The passage of House Bill 1449 would still allow the County Commissioners to provide ¼ of one mill to local historical societies unless they submitted the question to the public at the next election. However, the passage of House Bill 1449 would remove the 60% super majority needed to pass this levy increase and would also allow the local authorities and public to determine what levy would be necessarily required to adequately support historical society works in the county by removing the ¾ of one mill cap and replacing it with 5 mills.

Current legislation allows a maximum of up to 4 mills for libraries and 3 mills for county parks and recreation facilities. With tourism becoming a larger part of North Dakota's revenue it would only seem prudent to allow additional funding sources be made available to support local historical society work by providing up to 5 mills. There are museums scattered all over the state that would benefit from changes in this legislation, some have already tried to pass an increase in tax levy only to find out they did not meet the 60% requirement.

Mr. Chairman, Members of this Committee, I strongly urge you to recommend a "Do Pass" for House Bill 1449 and in support of this presentation, I also provide you with other Letters of Support for the record. Thank You.

Dean A. Pearson, President
Board of Directors
Bowman County Historical Society
Pioneer Trails Regional Museum

Grand Forks County Historical Society
2405 Belmont Road • Grand Forks, ND 58201 • (701) 775-2216

1-25-2005

Glen Froseth
Chairman of the Political Subdivisions Committee of the House of Representatives
State Capitol
600 East Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Mr. Froseth:

The Board members of the Grand Forks County Historical Society support the passage of House Bill 1449. Heritage Tourism is a growing force in our state's economy. One need only look back over the last twenty four months to see the impact that the bicentennial celebration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition has had on increasing the number of visitors to our state. Supporting local historical organizations, therefore, is a wise investment that county electors can make in order to increase tourism related revenues while at the same time educating the public and promoting a sense of community spirit.

Local historical societies rely heavily on volunteers and do a great job with very little in the way of public monetary support. Imagine what can be accomplished, however, if citizens are allowed to vote on increasing their county mill levy in order to create more professional-looking, exciting historical exhibits that attract more tourists to our North Dakota towns? House Bill 1449 allows the majority of citizens decide what is in their county's best interest. Please join us in support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Leah Byzewski

Leah Byzewski
Director
Grand Forks County Historical Society

January 22, 2005

Chairman
House Political Subdivisions Committee

Dear Chairman and Committee Members,

I would like to personally appear before your committee but my public appearances are restricted as I continue to recover from a serious motor vehicle accident.

For a number of years I have been an active member of the Missouri Valley Historical Society and Museums in North Dakota. My wife and I also hold membership in the Lewis & Clark Foundation and the State Historical Foundation.

I urge you to give a "Do Pass" on HB 1449 which will simplify additional funding sources for the local and regional historical societies. Partially through the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial activities, the State of North Dakota has shown how historical preservation and activities promotes tourism. Many people don't realize how local historical preservation and activities will help the individual communities and regions. Raising the allowable mil levy from ¾ mil to 5 mil will allow the smaller tax base counties to provide reasonable support to their local and regional historical works.

I would like the Committee to consider additional changes in NDCC Section 11-11-53. Currently, this section allows the county to levy a tax for the support of historical work. At the present time there are some counties who no not provide any financial support to their local historical activities. I would like language inserted which would mandate that the county commissioners levy at least a ¼ mil for support of historical works and activities when petitioned by the local historical society or other individuals.

If you desire, I could provide additional information by phone, e-mail, or regular correspondence.

Thank you for considering this matter.

Sincerely,

Carl S Vender

Carl S Vender
606 North 8th Street
Bismarck, ND 58501-4102
701-258-6787

PHONE NUMBER:
701-523-3309

CITY OF
BOWMAN

FAX NUMBER:
701-523-5716

P.O. BOX 12
BOWMAN, N.D. 58623

January 21, 2005

Political Subdivision Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The City if Bowman would like to go on record as being in favor of House Bill #1449. We would like to see the Mill Levy raised from the current 3/4 mill to the proposed 5 mills. We would also like to have the needed Super Majority changed to a Simple Majority of the voters.

Our Historical Society is very active in the community but finds themselves always needing additional funding for their projects. The proposed changes would help with their financial needs.

Yours truly,

Lyn James, President
Bowman City Commission

Dorothy Pearson

From: Wes Anderson [wes_anderson75@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2005 1:57 PM
To: dpearson@NDSUPERNET.COM
Subject: bills

HOw's this?

I am writing to you in regards to HB 1328 and HB 1449 for the historical works in ND. These bills are a step in the right direction, but I must favor the passage of HB 1449.

I am the curator of the Barnes County Historical Society and I work with many other small museums in my area as well as across the state. The 1/4 mil stipulation is very confining to what we do, and while we are very grateful for this funding we wish it could be more. We (BCHS) have tried 3 times to increase our funding to the full 3/4 mil in 2000, 2002 and again this past fall, all unsuccessfully. It is very difficult to get the 60% super majority required of the voters. This is why your 1328 bill to increase the 1/4 to 1/2 mil is a step in the right direction and would be of good benefit to our organization. But it doesn't go far enough to benefit everyone who needs help.

A full mil in Barnes County is $32,000. We get $8,000 right now and $16,000 would allow us to share $2,000 annually to both Wimbledon and Litchville Community museums to help insure that what has been collected stays where it has been collected. This is of utmost concern to me as when small museums close, their items are then often sold to the highest bidder and our ability to tell local history is greatly weakened. With the push for heritage tourism to become a mainstay of our economy, these museums are a major part of our state's heritage we wish to promote. Our past is a major part of our future.

The greatest concern I have with HB 1328 is that mils are not equal across the state. For example, as I understand it, Bowman's Pioneer Trails Museum is in an area where a full mil is only $1,200 so 1/4 is of no real help to them and unfortunately 1/2 mil isn't that much more of a help. It would not be of much use for them to try for a 60% vote to get the 3/4 of the $1,200.
Something is better than nothing, but all of this isn't the same help as this bill would be for us.

If we could get the 1/2 mil from the county, for us to try for the 60% vote to gain the additional 1/4 mil for a full $24,000 we would probably have a better chance of getting it. This last election we got 54% of the vote for a
1/2 mil increase to the full 3/4 mil. I wouldn't foresee it to be that difficult for us to get the final 1/4 mil in a public vote, but it is hard to tell.

So, for us your bill HB 1328 is helpful, though I fear it isn't enough for the smaller mil levy counties. HB 1449 on the schedule goes further to reducing the 60% vote to a simple majority vote and limits county funding at
5 mils. I can see where they are coming from on this as this would make more sense for the counties with lower valued mils. It is for their sake that I know they need HB 1449 to pass. I think I can comfortably support either bill, as both are an important step in the right direction of getting some needed and well deserved help for the museums in North Dakota, but HB 1449 helps everyone and not just a few. I sincerely thank you for your effort on these bills. If they do not pass, please do not give up the cause...we need your help!
Respectfully,
Wes Anderson
Curator BCHS

Bowman County Development Corporation
13 EAST DIVIDE • PO BOX 1143
BOWMAN, NORTH DAKOTA 58623
TELEPHONE (701) 523-5880 • FAX (701) 523-3322
www.bowmannd.com • bowcodev@ndsupernet.com

January 21, 2005

To: Chairman of the Political Subdivision Committee:
From: Bowman County Development Corporation
RE: HB1449

Dear Chairman:

The Bowman County Development Corporation supports House Bill 1449 and is asking for your consideration of a positive outcome for this bill.

Local historical societies are a very important component to the economic base of the rural and urban communities within the state. The tax dollars generated through historical societies is an important factor within the state. However, rural communities do not have the taxation base that urban communities have. Your support of HB 1449 will allow for local control of this taxation and enhance the historical societies of rural communities within North Dakota.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cal Klewin, *Executive Director*
Bowman County Development Corporation

PO Box 500
503 Hwy 85 South
Bowman, ND 58623

January 23, 2005

Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
Political Subdivision Committee
Bismarck, ND

Dear Chairperson:

I am writing in support of HB #1449 as a business owner, community member, taxpayer and Board Member of both the Bowman County Development Corporation and Bowman County Historical & Genealogical Society.

As a business owner I see the tremendous benefit tourism has on our local economy. As a community member and mother of three, I believe in the benefits of preserving history for generation to come. HB #1449 will give the residents of each county local control to increase the mill levy in support of historical preservation.

Thank you,

Debra M. Bucholz
Owner, North Winds Lodge
Treasurer, Bowman County Historical & Genealogical Society
Board Member, Bowman County Development Corporation

Bowman Area Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 1143
Bowman, ND 58623
701-523-5880

January 24, 2005

To: Chairman of the Political Subdivision Committee
From: Bowman Area Chamber of Commerce
RE: HB1449

Dear Chairman:

The Bowman Area Chamber of Commerce is in support of House Bill 1449 and is requesting your attention to the passage of this bill.

Local historical societies are very important to the tourism industry within North Dakota. The tax dollars generated through historical societies and their promotion of North Dakota is important to the communities, both rural and urban within the state. However, rural communities do not have the tax base that urban communities have. Your support of HB 1449 would allow the local control of this taxation and improve the historical societies impact in the rural counties within North Dakota.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Diane Paulson, *President*
Bowman Area Chamber of Commerce

Don and Kathy Wilkening
1002 2nd Street NW
Bowman, North Dakota
58623

Date: Jan. 21, 2005

To: State Representatives Kempeneich and Rennerfeldt

Subject : House Bill No. 1449

We are writing in support of passage of legislation as written in House Bill # 1449. The state of North Dakota holds a wide diversity of population, taxable property values and a array of cultural historical archives. The result is that local county taxpayers must decide on and implement appropriate funding for their particular region.

As volunteers in the Paleontology Department at Pioneer Trails Regional Museum and residents of Bowman County, we are aware of the financial constraints placed upon local museums. We are in favor of increased local property taxes in order to provide an opportunity for greater conservation of local historic artifacts, education and public service through the PTRM facility. A direct result of this will be economic expansion of the Southwest region thru increased tourist visitation.

Kathryn Wilkening
Kathy Wilkening

Don Wilkening
Don Wilkening

DICKINSON

THE WESTERN EDGE

Convention & Visitors Bureau

January 27, 2005

Mr. Chairman and members of the ~~Senate Natural Resources~~ House Political Subdivisions Committee, my name is Terri Thiel and I am the Executive Director of the Dickinson Convention & Visitors Bureau.

The Dickinson Convention & Visitors Bureau is in favor of House Bill 1449.

We believe this bill would have a positive economic impact on the state and rural areas in particular. By providing a means of preserving our historical works, the industry of tourism will be assured another tool of marketing to visitors who come to our state to experience not only the attractions and outdoor recreation, but also the cultural heritage tourism that North Dakota possesses.

Visitors to our state many times seek their own roots in our past through historical artifacts and sites that are a story of experiences of their own families. These visitors travel throughout the state many times, contributing to the local rural economies along the way. International travelers with family ties to North Dakota also travel seeking relatives and information to their cultural past, all of which brings dollars into our communities.

Please support House Bill 1449.

Sincerely,

Terri Thiel

Executive Director

72 East Museum Drive
Dickinson, North Dakota 58601
Web Site: www.dickinsoncvb.com

Phone: (701) 483-4988
(800) 279-7391
Fax: (701) 483-9261
E-mail: cvb@dickinsoncvb.com

Good Morning Chairman Devlin and Committee Members

My name is Claudia Berg, director of the Museum and Education Division, State Historical Society of North Dakota. I am here in support of HB #1449.

The State Historical Society works closely with many of the 130+ county, local, and tribal museums and organizations across North Dakota, providing technical assistance, educational resources, and partnership opportunities. But, we can not do it all. We rely on county and local historical societies to collect, protect, and present their community's heritage. Where better to tell the unique stories of a community than in a local museum.

House Bill #1449 is a springboard of opportunity for county organizations to continue and to improve their fiduciary responsibility to operate their museums on behalf of the people of their county. The current mill levy support in some counties, provides a level of funding that may keep the door open for three months every year. In more populated counties, the mill levy provides the next level of revenue needed to care for collections and produce programs. Raising the cap on the mill levy provides the possibility of financial support, especially for the most rural organizations.

County and local museums contribute to their communities. North Dakota history is taught in fourth and eighth grades, where better for a teacher to jump start an interest and appreciation in history, than in a county museum. The place where local stories are captured, about a pioneer or grandparent, in a tractor, a toy, or a teapot.

Heritage tourism is a term we are all hearing more often. But, what does it mean? Heritage tourism is travelers wanting to see the real thing. It's visitors traveling to North Dakota to see a 1930s barn, a turn-of-the century prairie church, a music festival, a local museum. The county or local historical society is often the organizing force in a community to showcase the heritage and culture of their region. A museum can be the hub of a community's identity.

House Bill #1449 continues to allow county commissioners, and the majority of voting citizens of each county, to determine their own path. The proposed changes in this bill allows those who choose to do so move progressively forward.

Attachment #1

February 17, 2005

Chairman Dwight Cook
Political Subdivisions Committee
North Dakota Senate

Dear Chairman and Committee Members;

My name is Dean Pearson and I am asking for your support of House Bill 1449. With the adoption of this bill, local residents could ask the County Commissioners to pass a resolution allowing the taxpayers of the county to place a tax levy on the ballot increasing the support currently available, or obtainable, for historical society work.

Legislation is currently in place that allows the County Commissioners to provide ¼ of one mill to historical societies for historical society work, without a vote of the public. To increase this support, an initiative must pass the voters by a 60% super majority, and then it would only increase the levy to ¾ of one mill maximum.

For smaller, rural counties it is hard to find monies to support historical society work and to do preservation. In these rural counties, even ¾ of one mill is a small amount of funds to work with. For example, in Bowman County ¼ of one mill is equal to about $2285. For us to go through the work of voting in a raise of ½ of a mill to the maximum of ¾ of one mill by a super-majority of 60%, only to obtain an additional $4570 barely seems worthwhile. Larger populated counties have more monies to work with as their mill levies are worth more, (Barnes County ~ 32,000 per mill and Cass County ~ 300,000), thus they can do more under the current legislation.

The passage of House Bill 1449 would allow the local authorities and voting public to determine what mill levy would be necessary to adequately support local historical society work in the county, up to a maximum of 5 mills.

Current legislation allows a maximum of up to 4 mills for libraries and 3 mills for county parks and recreation facilities. With tourism becoming a larger part of North Dakota's revenue it would only seem prudent to allow additional funding sources be made available to support local historical society work by providing up to 5 mills. With the current legislation, there is more money available to support historical society work in the more populous parts of North Dakota and virtually none in the more rural areas. History is sometimes all the smaller rural areas have to offer as a tourism draw to their communities.

Mr. Chairman, Members of this Committee, I strongly urge you to recommend a "Do Pass" for House Bill 1449. Thank You.

Dean A. Pearson, President
Board of Directors
Bowman County Historical Society
Pioneer Trails Regional Museum

attachment 2 A

Good Morning Chairman Cook and Committee Members

My name is Claudia Berg, director of the Museum and Education Division, State Historical Society of North Dakota. I am here in support of HB #1449.

The State Historical Society works closely with many of the 130+ county, local, and tribal museums and organizations across North Dakota, providing technical assistance, educational resources, and partnership opportunities. As the state's history agency we can not do it all. We rely on county and local historical societies to collect, protect, and present their community's heritage. Where better to tell the unique stories of a community than in a local museum.

House Bill #1449 is a springboard of opportunity for county organizations to continue and to improve their fiduciary responsibility to operate their museums on behalf of the people of their county. The current mill levy support in some counties, provides a level of funding that may keep the door open for three months every year. In more populated counties, the mill levy provides the next level of revenue needed to care for collections and produce programs. Raising the cap on the mill levy provides the possibility of financial support, especially for the most rural organizations.

County and local museums contribute to their communities. North Dakota history is taught in fourth and eighth grades, where better for a teacher to jump start an interest and appreciation in history, than in a county museum. The place where local stories are captured, about a pioneer or grandparent, in a tractor, a toy, or a teapot.

Heritage tourism is a term we are all hearing more often. But, what does it mean? Heritage tourism is travelers wanting to see the real thing. It's visitors traveling to North Dakota to see a 1930s barn, a turn-of-the century prairie church, a music festival, a local museum. The county or local historical society is often the organizing force in a community to showcase the heritage and culture of their region. A museum can be the hub of a community's identity.

House Bill #1449 continues to allow county commissioners, and the majority of voting citizens of each county, to determine their own path. The proposed changes in this bill allows those who choose to do so move progressively forward.

Attachment 2 B

Dear Senator Cook,

As curator for the Barnes County Historical Society (BCHS) museum in Valley City, ND, I am writing this letter in strong support for the passage of HB1449 for historical works in North Dakota. As it stands, the 3/4 mil limitation is a major handicap when it comes to public funding from counties in North Dakota as mils are not equal across the state. A mil in Barnes County is valued at $32,000 while a mil in Hettinger is only $1,200. At the maximum BCHS could get $24,000 while Bowman Pioneer Trails Regional Museum (PTRM)could only get $900. The current rule allowing county governments to give 1/4mil without the vote of the people is a major help in providing extra funding but it is also a hindrance as it means that BCHS gets $8,000 and PTRM gets just $300 to carry out its work. From our standpoint, the $8,000 that BCHS is currently getting is not sufficient to carry out our work of supporting three museums in Barnes County. We have tried three times unsuccessfully to garner the necessary 60% vote needed to allow us the full 3/4 mil of $24,000 to be dispersed among the three BC museums. This most recent election in Nov 2004 we attained a simple majority of 53% but it was not enough to make the difference. Looking on the funding roster of the Barnes County government, the historical society is the least funded item at 1/4 mil. This is just beneath the next lowest item of "advertising" that stands at .29 of a mil.

Historical Societies and museums are all too often overlooked when it comes to funding needs. Tourism in North Dakota at this time is the second largest economic producer for the state and the fastest growing segment of our state's economy. The largest push for tourism development in North Dakota is heritage tourism. This means that the state of North Dakota is using its history to promote itself to out of state visitors to bring in their money to our economy. Our state's history is PRESERVED in the many small museums scattered around the state. These repositories of our now valuable and market history are in need of help. The passage of HB 1449 is a major step in the right direction of addressing this problem of underfunding. The modification of the original bill to retain the 60% super majority vote in the Century Code is an unnecessary hindrance towards making positive things happen. BCHS is one of the larger museums in the state that depends primarily on memberships for support and does not have the extra funding necessary to run a proper educational campaign to make the public fully aware of the minuscule amount we are asking as an increase. Three times we have mounted the effort and have been unable to change the minds of the people about increased taxes, no matter how small an amount it is to them or how large the return would be to the community. If we cannot do it I do not know how another museum, smaller than we are, could.

North Dakota is in an underfunded area when it comes to grant opportunities for museums. We are also at a great disadvantage as ND ranks 50 in the nation for number of granting foundations. Most, if not all, of North Dakota's museum have too small of a budget when it comes to being able to apply for federal grants or corporate grants. We need to keep what has been gathered where it has been gathered. A few years ago the museum in Kindred closed. It was technically a private collection but people in the community gave items to the guy who ran it for the sake of the community. When he died, it was closed and the collection put up for sale at auction. There were three rings running for 12 hours a day for three days. People in the community were there trying to buy back family heirlooms against collectors and dealers from Minneapolis and LA and items were going at top dollar. Gone are the stories attached to those items and less rich is the story of what it means to be from ND. They take our agriculture products at rock bottom prices. They take our children, the future of ND. Now they also take our past away from us to the highest bidder. If this is allowed to continue due to economic neglect, what will be left? Please help pass HB 1449. Give the museums of ND a chance to make a difference.

Sincerest Regards,
Wes Anderson
Curator BCHM
Valley City

Don and Kathy Wilkening
1002 2nd Street NW
Bowman, North Dakota
58623

Date: Feb. 12, 2005

To: State Senator Dwight Cook
State Senator Nicholas Hacker
Etal.

Subject: House Bill No. 1449

We are writing in support of passage of legislation as written in the engrossed House Bill # 1449. The state of North Dakota holds a wide diversity of population, taxable property values and a array of cultural historical archives. The result is that local county taxpayers must decide on and implement appropriate funding for their particular region.

As volunteers in the Paleontology Department at Pioneer Trails Regional Museum and residents of Bowman County, we are aware of the financial constraints placed upon local museums. We are in favor of increased local property taxes in order to provide an opportunity for greater conservation of local historic artifacts, education and public service through the PTRM facility. A direct result of this will be economic expansion of the Southwest region thru increased tourist visitation.

Kathy Wilkening

Kathy Wilkening

Don Wilkening

Don Wilkening

Mills Levied 2003 (For Collection in 2004)

Perry Traynor
HB 1449

Source: Compiled by NDACo from:
Property Tax Statistical Report - State Tax Department
Levies limited by statute are highlighted

	Value of 1 Mill	County General Fund Mills	County General Fund Dollars	Historical Society Work Mills	Historical Society Work Dollars
Adams	$6,988	48.33	$337,728	0.34	$2,376
Barnes	$33,019	23.00	$759,427	0.25	$8,255
Benson	$12,267	29.18	$357,958		
Billings	$4,768	9.91	$47,248	0.49	$2,336
Bottineau	$22,652	23.27	$527,111	0.25	$5,663
Bowman	$8,267	0.25	$2,067	0.26	$2,149
Burke	$8,574	22.51	$192,991	0.23	$1,972
Burleigh	$145,021	33.90	$4,916,211		
Cass	$297,735	31.45	$9,363,757		
Cavalier	$19,272	33.24	$640,610	0.25	$4,818
Dickey	$15,234	36.58	$557,249	0.25	$3,808
Divide	$9,037	23.81	$215,179	0.30	$2,711
Dunn	$12,278	48.99	$601,485	0.25	$3,069
Eddy	$6,322	43.92	$277,679	0.32	$2,023
Emmons	$13,495	38.20	$515,495	0.47	$6,342
Foster	$12,110	25.69	$311,102	0.25	$3,027
Golden Valley	$5,362	40.39	$216,569	0.25	$1,340
Grand Forks	$124,884	21.82	$2,724,971	0.25	$31,221
Grant	$7,815	36.17	$282,685	0.25	$1,954
Griggs	$8,408	35.92	$302,011	0.25	$2,102
Hettinger	$8,828	41.80	$369,026	0.38	$3,355
Kidder	$9,197	27.57	$253,563		
Lamoure	$15,208	28.10	$427,336	0.25	$3,802
Logan	$6,567	41.19	$270,493	0.47	$3,086
McHenry	$20,520	23.00	$471,949		
McIntosh	$9,460	25.91	$245,102	0.25	$2,365
McKenzie	$15,927	16.87	$268,688	0.33	$5,256
McLean	$23,913	16.88	$403,645	0.25	$5,978
Mercer	$18,101	20.50	$371,071	0.25	$4,525
Morton	$52,511	40.93	$2,149,282	0.25	$13,128
Mountrail	$14,600	25.31	$369,533	0.24	$3,504
Nelson	$10,802	37.86	$408,982	0.25	$2,701
Oliver	$5,179	21.27	$110,152	0.25	$1,295
Pembina	$28,043	25.98	$728,569	0.25	$7,011
Pierce	$13,568	34.69	$470,687	0.28	$3,799
Ramsey	$23,662	32.30	$764,274		
Ransom	$15,758	28.89	$455,255	0.25	$3,940
Renville	$9,860	23.00	$226,784	0.25	$2,465
Richland	$45,509	70.77	$3,220,680	0.25	$11,377
Rolette	$9,176	32.82	$301,156	0.32	$2,936
Sargent	$13,752	36.18	$497,537	0.25	$3,438
Sheridan	$5,919	23.70	$140,275	0.41	$2,427
Sioux	$2,037	50.67	$103,201		
Slope	$5,192	15.41	$80,009		
Stark	$36,154	58.96	$2,131,616		
Steele	$10,034	34.36	$344,784	0.38	$3,813
Stutsman	$47,118	25.11	$1,183,145	0.25	$11,780
Towner	$11,470	25.25	$289,624	0.34	$3,900
Traill	$24,427	23.97	$585,522	0.48	$11,725
Walsh	$30,499	29.61	$903,085	0.25	$7,625
Ward	$100,520	21.17	$2,127,999	0.19	$19,099
Wells	$16,700	36.58	$610,874	0.27	$4,509
Williams	$35,156	32.99	$1,159,812	0.50	$17,578
Number of Counties Levying		53.00		44.00	
Average of Those Levying		30.87		0.30	

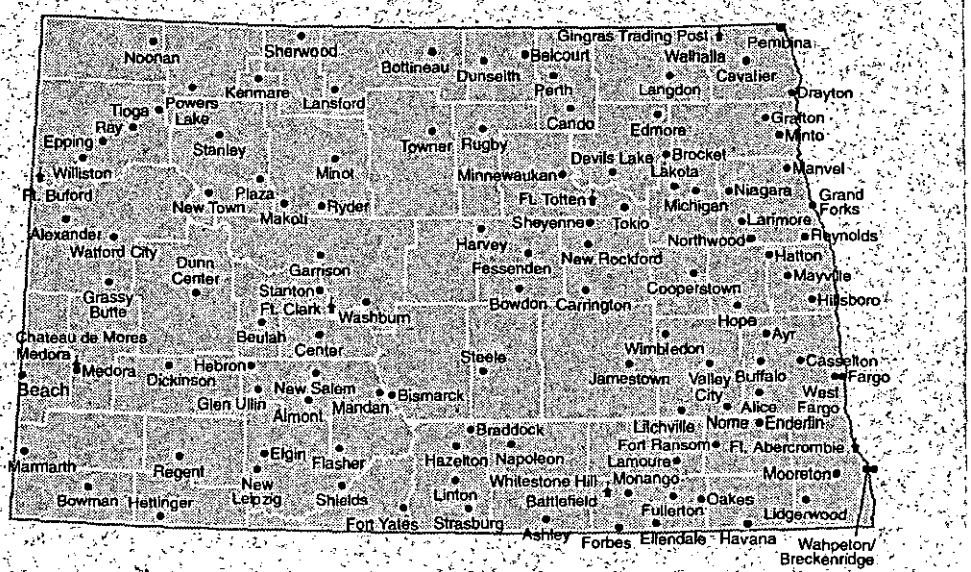
HB1449 attachment 2.c

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF NORTH DAKOTA

Historical Organizations in North Dakota—2005

Contact Information

** indicates no museum • indicates county affiliation with the S.H.S.N.D.*
For symbol key to site type and services, see back page.



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Web site: http://DiscoverND.com/hist • TTY: 1-800-366-6888

Contact State Historical Society for a copy