

INTERIM TAXATION COMMITTEE

Testimony of Sara Hewson, Property Tax Specialist
November 28, 2007

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, for the record my name is Sara Hewson and I am employed as a Property Tax Specialist by the Office of State Tax Commissioner. My testimony today is in response to question 4 of John Walstad's October 17, 2007, letter to Tax Commissioner Cory Fong.

Question 4 requests an update on the soil survey use compliance review which is being conducted by the Property Tax Division of the Tax Department.

This review consists of four separate sections which are valuation schedule for soils, consideration of use, modifiers, and data sheets (property records) and soil maps for selected townships.

The first section of this review pertains to the valuation schedule for soils. A request for materials was emailed to all of the county directors of tax equalization on August 30, 2007 and these materials were due October 1. A copy of that email is attached.

This section of the review has three components: 1) Total taxable acres for each mapping unit/soil classification for county; 2) Index of mapping unit/soil classification; 3) Explanation of methodology used to apply index.

Twelve counties had all three components and therefore met the requirements of this first section of the review. Thirteen counties had one or two components and may need only a bit of assistance to complete this first section of the review. Twenty-two

counties did not have sufficient information to provide any components of this section of the review. Six counties did not respond to this request.

The second section of this review will request materials pertaining to the use of modifiers. This request will be emailed to the county directors of tax equalization on December 3, 2007.

This concludes my testimony. I will be happy to try to answer any questions.

Email sent 8/30/2007

Director of Tax Equalization;

The Property Tax Division of the Office of State Tax Commissioner will be conducting the review of agricultural land valuation procedures. Periodically, you will receive a request for information/materials via email. If your office can not provide the requested material, please respond with an explanation.

All requested materials should be based on the **2007 agricultural assessment**.

Due Date: October 1st, 2007

Requested material: Valuation Schedule for soils

- Total taxable acres for each mapping unit/soil classification for county
- Index of mapping unit/soil classification
- Explanation of methodology used to apply indexes

Note: The valuation schedule should illustrate the calculation method used to determine the value for each mapping unit or soil class. The source for the indexing must accompany the schedule. This source may be crop yields, animal unit month, or soil committee determinations.

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