

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1277

House Finance & Taxation Committee

January 25, 2021

Paul Houdek, City Assessor, City of Grand Forks, ND

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Finance & Taxation Committee, my name is Paul Houdek and I am the City Assessor for the City of Grand Forks. I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and express support for HB 1277.

This bill allows a local jurisdiction to increase a new home exemption from \$150,000 per year to \$250,000 per year for up to two years. These limitations have not been changed since 2009 and we feel that it is time to allow cities to expand this exemption.

The cost of development and construction continues to rise. By expanding the ceiling of this exemption we are helping to keep our new homes affordable to more people.

This exemption is optional, and each jurisdiction can decide for themselves to what degree they would like to participate. No city is required to allow this exemption and each local jurisdiction must pass a resolution adopting NDCC 57-02-08(35). This is an important component to this bill.

Thank you for your consideration on this bill.

The City of Grand Forks Legislative Committee and the Grand Forks City Assessor both ask for a DO PASS for HB 1277