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January 19, 2021

RE: House Bill 1325 relating to an optional residential property tax freeze for owners who are age sixty-five or older

Chair Rep. Headland, Vice-Chair Rep. Steiner, and Members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee:

HB 1325 is detrimental to Jamestown and to North Dakota. According to 2019 U.S. Census data, 1,880 of the residential properties in Jamestown were owned and/or occupied by someone 65 years of age or older. HB 1325 would cause Jamestown a 41% decrease in property tax revenue. In a city that already has the large percentage of government-owned property, and therefore already a substantial burden on property owners, this would be a devastating problem for any property owner, residential and business, in this community.

This is a sure method to guarantee a decrease in our state population and an increase in the relocation of people and businesses to neighboring states and Canada.

Please withdraw your support for HB 1325. Thank you for your continued work in representing the people of this region and North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Sarah Hellekson

City Administrator / City Auditor

Census Data, 1-19-2020,

https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=0400000US38_1600000US3840580&tid=ACSDP5Y2019.DP02