

Testimony for Public Hearing
House Finance and Taxation Committee
March 3, 2021
Edward Sevigny, Walsh County Tax Director

Testimony in opposition to S.B. No. 2041 (Committee)

Good Morning Mr. Chairman and members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee. For the record my name is Edward Sevigny and I am the Walsh County Tax Director. I am here today to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 2041. As the Walsh County Tax Director I am responsible for equalizing the values for property tax purposes of 36 Townships and 13 Cities in Walsh County as well as guiding and directing our Local Assessors.

Walsh County:

- Approximately \$2.13 million in True and Full Value throughout the County would be eliminated
- This would reduce the property taxes collected by the County or shift that burden to all other taxpayers
- This would also reduce collections or shift the tax burden for Cities and School Districts

Fairdale City (Walsh County):

- Would lose approximately 14% of their True and Full Value
- All other taxpayers would see an 18% increase in tax bills to collect the same amount of property taxes

Crystal City (Pembina County):

- Would lose approximately 21.6% of their True and Full Value
- All other taxpayers would see a 28% increase in tax bills to collect the same amount of property taxes

Enforcement of bill:

- Many potato warehouse bins could be rented out to others from year to year, how to accurately verify?
- Individuals related to the owner by blood or marriage, how to realistically verify?

Structures built within Incorporated City Limits:

- These structures were built within City Limits to take advantage of roads, railway, utilities, infrastructure, and other amenities not offered on a farm
- Currently no other structures besides Churches or non-profit organizations are offered permanent exemptions within City Limits

This bill would cause a tax shift, especially in small cities, to other property owners. It would also be difficult to administer on a yearly basis and allow these property owners to receive services offered within City Limits that all other taxpayers help pay for through property taxes. Thank you on behalf of Walsh County for allowing me to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 2041.