

**House Industry, Business and Labor Committee  
Chairman – Representative Mike Lefor  
January 26, 2021**

**Testimony**

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**HB 1169**

Chairman Lefor and members of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee, my name is Harold Stewart, City Manager of Minot. The City of Minot would like the record to reflect its opposition to HB 1169.

As the bill is currently drafted, it potentially jeopardizes many of the services North Dakota communities provide their constituencies. Examples of these services include utilities such as water and sewer, trash collection and recycling, and quality of life amenities such as gyms and weight rooms.

While the private sector often provides such services in a particular community, it is frequently in the interest of the public to have such services operated by the local government. In some cases, this is because operation by government is cheaper for its constituents and preserves economic competitiveness, and in others cases it provides these services to lower economic classes of communities where they otherwise would not have access to such services. Examples include providing waste collection services at lower cost and providing workout equipment to citizens that cannot afford a membership at a Gold's Gym.

Given the potential detriments to economic development competitiveness and socioeconomic disparity this bill would introduce to North Dakota communities, the City of Minot respectfully requests a "do not pass" action from this Committee.