

Senate Finance and Taxation Committee
State Capitol Building
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

March 22, 2021

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

The Minot Association of Builders would like to write to your committee today to express our opposition for House Bill 1277, as written.

The current tax exemption that is in place for new construction is a wonderful incentive to homeowners that helps secure financing and encourages putting down roots in North Dakota, which in turn supports local schools, communities, and the local economy. Originally, our organization was in favor of this bill, as it raises the tax exemption on new construction home values from \$150,000 to \$250,000. However, an amendment has been added that would require this tax amendment to be added to the local ballot and with this amendment, our stance on this bill has changed.

The current amendment to the bill that requires a vote of the people is extremely detrimental to the programs currently in place across the state. This amendment would also create a huge barrier for cities like Minot that may be interested in re-enacting this tax exemption program in the future. For this reason, our organization cannot support HB 1277.

We urge you to oppose House Bill 1277 to ensure the residential property tax exemption for new construction can continue to promote homebuilding, home ownership and community development, which in turn stimulates the economy in our great state of North Dakota. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Erika Kelly
MAB Executive Officer

Shane Lider
MAB Board President



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