



Allyn Sveen – Stanley City Auditor

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Senate Finance and Taxation Committee

SB #2270 - (1/27/2021 Hearing – 10:30 A.M.)

Dear Chair Bell and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance and Taxation Committee:

I am respectfully requesting you to support a **“DO NOT PASS”** on Senate Bill #2270 relating to an optional residential property tax reduction for seniors, age 65 or older.

Senate Bill #2270 creates a lot of implications. Allowing a 70% reduction in true and full valuation for the “primary residence” for age 65 or older with no stipulations will drastically reduce the overall valuation in cities. It is not fair to shift the tax burden to those under the age of 65 and/or to other classifications of property (agricultural and commercial) in order to make up the loss of tax revenue from the reduction in valuations. There are likely more taxpayers under the age of 65 struggling and to place this burden on them is unjust and may cause undue hardship for many.

Further, numerous have expressed opposition to similar bills and have presented many valid and logical reasons why similar legislation should not be passed. The State of ND already allows for property tax credits for senior citizens and disabled persons and veterans that meet qualifications. These tax credits are reimbursed by the State to political subdivisions and present no loss of revenue to political subdivisions nor do these credits shift the tax burden to other taxpayers. Maybe something similar should be considered for those over 65 at the State level without distorting property values and without having an adverse effect on hard working taxpayers.

Please do not place this unnecessary burden on a select group of taxpayers nor distort the overall valuations within political subdivisions, your support for a **“DO NOT PASS”** on Senate Bill #2270 is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Allyn Sveen
Stanley City Auditor

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