

HB 1248 – Testimony by Michael Connelly, Citizen of Bismarck ND

Mr. Chairman,

I have been very active in local level political policy advocacy and believe that North Dakota must keep their drive for being innovative at the taxation level alive. Much of this has to do with the sustainability of our Constitutional Republic and our capitalistic financial structure.

Currently there are some trends that can compromise the foundation of both because they rely on individual property ownership of property. Both national and international companies like the Black Rock investment group, Haven Park, and others are starting to upset some of the stability of private ownership of property. It is for this reason that I believe HB 1248 should be a focus during the legislative interim as a study. If running the numbers along with amendment considerations give North Dakota some insight on how we can better serve our citizens, then our legislative process is working as it is designed.

For decades now there has been a desire by many citizens to look for ways that North Dakota can move away from property taxes to another form of a revenue vehicle. As ideas are presented the one thing that the legislature should explore is the feasibility of ideas presented. Not through the rejection of said ideas but defining the differences one way or the other with specific examples why they would or would not work and why. I am confident this drive for looking at the possibilities will help North Dakota remain a leader to talk on the challenges of the future versus merely positioning ourselves to react to them as problems arise.

Sincerely,

Mike Connelly