

Mr. chairman and committee members, thank you for letting me speak.

I see that many bills coming out of both houses deal with child care, school lunches, fuel assistance, welfare etc.

Eliminating this unfair property tax would greatly lessen the need for all the handouts as the people could spend the money they normally give to the government for the privilege of living in their own house, farming their own land, or running their own business on buying their own food, taking care of their own children and buying their own fuel.

With the increased revenues business' could raise wages, landowners could reduce rent, farmers could see increased profits and buy more equipment thus starting the whole cycle over again.

The unfairness comes from which group you belong to, resident, business or farmer and where in the state you live. My tax on my property in the country a house on 7 acres is \$3700 if I lived in Minot it would be in the \$7000 range and if I were a farmer my 7 acres would be about \$20 depending on what is grown on it and because my buildings are tax exempt.

Property tax is the problem not income tax. My Net income was up this year due to some one time investments that came due so I netted about \$78,000 and my state tax is \$284 which is wiped out by Burgums generous \$700 tax credit. So think about it which is more crippling to people? Income tax \$284 or property tax \$3700 in the county and \$7000 in the city?

But main gist of this whole bill comes down to will you let the people vote? Just like you are going to let the people vote on "sports betting."

There is an ever increasing amount of people who will be watching this with great interest and we're really hoping you will give us a chance to vote on this issue.