

Senate Finance and Taxation  
Chair and Committee Members

SB 2391

The Downtown Business Association of Bismarck represents over 200 members with 9,000 employees in North Dakota's second largest employment district. SB 2391 updates portions of the State's Renaissance Zone program. Each city creates their own Renaissance Zone development plan that reflects the needs of their specific community. While Bismarck doesn't have any immediate future plans connected to these changes to the program, we recognize that each community has their own challenges to address in their redevelopment.



Secondary projects and **secondary islands** should show a real need for redevelopment or revitalization, and not just expansion of the program.

**Secondary projects** should only be allowed if it becomes the last project using the program. This should include cities requiring a building condition assessment on that project, as well as a design review process, to make sure all issues are addressed and there isn't need for a third project from the program.

**Extending the exemption** period to include a half year could be cumbersome for taxing reasons, so we suggest full years consideration, as well as retaining the 5 years at 50% investment.

**Renaissance Zone Fund organizations** haven't been widely used in North Dakota, should it continue there should be efforts to focus dollars in other communities.

**Extension to 10 year periods** we would support, since annual reports are required by the state, and reports also given annually to legislative management.

We understand the reasons communities in our state are requesting with SB 2391, please consider this our support with the above suggestions and considerations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Herzog". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kate" and last name "Herzog" clearly distinguishable.

Kate Herzog, COO  
Chief Operating Officer  
Downtown Business Association of Bismarck

President  
Downtown Bismarck Community Foundation