

3/11/2025

Senate Finance and Taxation Committee, Sen. Mark Weber, Chairman  
HB 1168, IN FAVOR

Sen. Weber and Committee members,

Please amend HB1168 relief back up to the 60 mils of the original bill, and give a DO PASS recommendation. Currently the 10 mil replacement is so little, it's silly.

It is widely believed that members of the legislature have already determined that one of the three property tax bills (HB1176) is the one that will be passed. Hopefully this isn't true, and y'all aren't just going through the motions.

I will tell you as the Chairman of the recent Measure 4, that we are very concerned about what will come out of this session for property tax relief and reform.

The **ONLY** satisfactory option in our opinion is HB1168 set at 60 mils, with a cap on property tax budgets' spending increases (with override by public vote), and ideally with a cap on valuation increases.

HB1168 is our choice for several very straightforward reasons:

- 1) It provides substantial relief in the range of 40-45% of property tax. The people of ND deserve **SUBSTANTIAL** relief.
- 2) It puts the responsibility for k-12 education with the state and state taxes - NOT local taxes. This is what our state constitution says must be. HB1168 makes us compliant with the state constitution.
- 3) Because it fully takes care of a specific state responsibility, it is very black and white. Not just a random buy-down, which hasn't worked out that great so far.
- 4) Because it covers all three property classifications, this bill will provide relief for farmers and ranchers, whereas HB1176 will not.
- 5) Because it covers all three property classifications, this bill will provide relief for hundreds of ND small businesses that are trying to stay afloat, whereas HB1176 will not.
- 6) Because 1168 includes ALL residential, HB1168 will help renters as well.
- 7) This is a **HERE AND NOW** solution, not something that we citizens need to hope the legislature will continue to do every two years (unlike HB1176).

You may feel that considering passing HB1168 with 60 mils is swimming upstream against what may have already been planned, but please strongly consider this. The people of ND are hoping their legislators will finally provide true, substantial, sustainable relief.

HB1168 at 60 mills will have a bigger price tag than the others, true. But please consider that a suboptimal relief package may cost \$500-\$550M, yet to do the full 60 mil HB1168 **MAJOR** relief ups it to only \$775-\$800M. If the legislature puts priority on providing real relief, it certainly will prioritize spending in such a way to make it happen.

Thank you for your time and effort on this matter.

-Rick Becker  
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