

Committee Senate and House Members of the  
Senate Finance and Taxation  
And  
House Finance and Taxation

What a bi-annual year already! During the election year Measure 4 sucked all the oxygen out of the election conversation that in our state the Presidential election took second in conversation on which side of a line people stood on. The conversation truly was between very tired hard-working citizens in one of the top three wealthiest states per capita versus a Keep It Local coalition spinning a fallacy, made up of ingrained Democrats and Establishment Republicans that make laws for the hardworking citizen, but do not have to live paycheck to paycheck like the average citizen does.

Then we are told that the message was sent “LOUD AND CLEAR” that something will be done and the “TIME IS NOW” on behalf of the citizens of our great state of North Dakota (the most conservative Republican state in the country). With fifty plus bills introduced and three still standing, “We the People” were hopeful in the “Splash” that Governor Armstrong made, with what is now known as HB 1176, the message would turn into change that had meaning. Upon crossover, we are finding out different as it looks like the citizens will again have to settle for a crumb that made **BIG BOLD HEADLINES in January** that is barely worth the paper it is being written on now. Maybe the term for the establishment is really true: “Cake and Eat it Too Representatives”! Let us look at the breakdown:

HB-1176 : A moving % cap on mill increase only guaranteed for two years but can change with a vote of the citizens, \$1,450 credit and who knows if many ever see the legacy dollars pay for more then just the crumb over time.....

HB-1575: Like the effort to include a mix and mash of both residential and commercial, yet there remain questions of elements of it being Constitutionally sound as well as problematic in its implementation.

HB-1168: This one has the most merit as it will actually get us closer to abiding by the Constitution where it is the state’s responsibility to make sure education costs don’t fall on the back of the citizens. HB-1168 is the only bill left that has any teeth to it so that hard-working citizens can have confidence in it. It is also an answer to all of the families that choose to go to home-school and or send their kids to private school as their dollars can go for those valued choices and not be split in paying other people’s choices and theirs with

their hard-earned dollars. In a sense you would cover some other efforts with just one by voting HB-1168 into law.

At the end of the session, to vote choose HB-1176 over HB-1168 will be a matter of Lucy (Establishment Republicans) telling Charlie Brown (hard working North Dakota Citizen's) that she won't pull the football away this time and with a signature we are all left with "breaking our backs" yet again.

Mike Connelly

701-400-1839

Bismarck Citizen

(The above is my thoughts and opinion only and not the position of any entity or organization, for those you have to contact their communications officer or the entities chair)