



**Testimony of Elly DesLauriers**  
**Minot Park District**  
**To Senate Finance & Taxation Committee**  
**In Opposition to HB 1572**  
**Tuesday, March 18, 2025**

Chairman Weber and members of the Committee, my name is Elly DesLauriers, and I am the Executive Director of the Minot Park District.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1572. We appreciate the House's amended version of the bill which includes an increase in Section 1 of the proposed park district general obligation bonding cap from 1% or up to \$1 million to up to \$15 million, but we believe this is still insufficient, especially for larger park districts facing significant, multi-phase projects spanning several years and rising construction costs. This cap would limit the ability of park districts to meet both current and future needs comprehensively, forcing them to rely on special assessments.

In conjunction with NDRPA we propose amending the bill to raise the cap to \$30 million, which would better reflect the financial realities faced by park districts while still ensuring fiscal oversight.

Regarding taxpayer protection, the existing 60-day protest period already provides ample opportunity for public input, ensuring transparency and accountability. With this process in place, further restrictions on park districts' bonding capacity are unnecessary.

Park Districts are currently limited to indebtedness of 1% of the assessed value of all taxable property imposed by NDCC-21-03-06(6) and 40-49.14. As of 2024 the Minot Park District was capped at 24.6 million and our remaining debt capacity of 10.9 million. The 15-million-dollar cap in the bill would have little effect on the Minot Park District plans. However, it could hinder larger cities from considering project that they otherwise would have the ability to complete due to significantly higher debt caps.

In conclusion, we respectfully request that the committee either remove the \$15 million cap or amend Section 1 to include a \$30 million cap to account for rising construction costs. Thank you for your time and consideration.