

HB 1575 Support, Senate Finance & Tax, 3/11/2025

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Finance and Tax Committee, my name is Ty Dressler and I represent District 36 in the House. District 36 stretches from Dickinson to just east of New Salem.

As you may have heard, House Finance and Tax was busy this year, as I'm sure you were as well. One thing that stood out to me, though, was that HB 1575 did NOT receive any testimony in opposition during committee meetings.

HB 1575 provides broad-based, equitable, and consistent tax relief. It addresses more than only primary residences. It provides an opportunity to drop the assessment rates on residential, commercial, AND Agricultural properties.

RE: Commercial, this would bring relief to many of the businesses out west that have provided for the development of our oil and gas resources and therefore helped to grow the very fund we are using to provide this tax relief. But the benefit doesn't stop with just western ND oil companies, it will provide help to all our commercially taxed properties in our state, from small-town mainstreet to downtown Fargo.

RE: Agriculture, Agriculture contributes over \$40 Billion dollars to the state's economy and many tens of thousands of jobs in our communities. In 42 of our 53 counties, agricultural property taxes EXCEED residential property taxes. In 30 of these counties, Ag property accounts for more than half of all property taxes collected. How can we ignore this class of property? Isn't the Legacy Fund a People's Fund? Why wouldn't we choose an equitable manner of distribution of benefits to ALL the people?

When providing property tax relief, we need to look at an all-of-the-above approach. If we choose only one class of property and buy that class down to zero, where does that leave us when considering bond referendums for new projects like schools or community centers? If those receiving a primary residence tax credit get to a zero-tax liability, why wouldn't they vote for the new school or new community center? For a couple extra bucks a month, they

could have a new, shiny building in their town. And who will be left footing the bill? Agriculture.....the farmers and ranchers of this state, who didn't get any additional tax breaks from the 69th assembly.

Property tax IS like a three-legged stool, and good luck balancing when we cut one of those legs in half.....Please vote DO PASS on HB 1575 and send the message to the floor of the Senate, that ALL CORNERS.....OUR ENTIRE state has spoken and they wish to see broad-based tax relief supporting not only the residential property owner, but also the economic drivers of our state, Ag and Commercial, that make it a great place to live.

Finally, if Primary Residence Tax Credits is something we wish to do, let's look for compromise. We could take \$1,000 of PRC from HB 1176, drop Ag and Commercial from 10 to 8.5% like in HB 1575, and use the 10 mills from HB 1168. Then, we could work thru the interim to further examine the effects of each plan and settle into a good, equitable plan for the future, being careful not to tip the scales too far in one direction, or fall off our stools.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.