



North Dakota Senate Political Subdivisions

Chairman – Randy Burckhard

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Testimony: Brian K. Billingsley, AICP  
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### House Bill 1222 Urging a “Do Not Pass” Recommendation

I am writing on behalf of The City of Minot to express our **opposition** to HB 1222 (Non-Conforming Structures). This bill attempts to micromanage locally adopted zoning laws. HB 1222 is too vague and may be subject to misinterpretation by planners, property owners, attorneys, and judges.

The City of Minot has several non-conforming residential buildings that can and should be rebuilt to current zoning codes after they are razed. North Dakota’s cities and counties are unique and have different needs. Unfortunately, this legislation promotes a “one-size fits all” approach for the zoning of our cities and counties. Local government should have the independence to determine how to handle non-conforming buildings, structures, and uses within their jurisdiction without interference from the State government. Constituents can and should take their concerns to their local government officials if they do not agree with local rules. Handling this legislation at the State level is unnecessary.

For these reasons, I strongly urge your committee to recommend a “do not pass” on HB 1222 and I thank you for your consideration and for your service to our State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "B. Billingsley".

Brian K. Billingsley, AICP  
Community & Economic Development Director

Cc: Mayor Shaun Sipma  
Minot City Council  
Harold Stewart, City Manager  
Shane Goettle, Special Assistant City Attorney  
Blake Crosby, North Dakota League of Cities  
Natalie Pierce, North Dakota Planning Association