

Chairman Burckhard and members of the Senate Political Subdivision Committee:

Good morning, my name is Brandon Boespflug and I am the Building Inspections Director/ Chief Building Official for the City of Grand Forks. I am writing this email in addition to formal written testimony that I will be submitting on HB1222 that will be in front of you on Friday 3/19. HB 1222 is no different than HB 1165 that was in front of most of you last legislative session. You will hear tomorrow from those that are in favor that they have made changes, but those changes have merely been verbiage changes. Not changes to the intent of the bill. Again, this legislative session the intent of the bill from the bill sponsor continues to be unclear.

One thing we do know about the bill, is if passed it will take away the ability of political subdivisions to work with citizens they represent on a solution. For example, this bill will tie the hands of staff in Grand Forks and tie the hands of our appointed and elected commissions and council. The city of Grand Forks already has a well thought out process and ordinance's concerning items of nonconformity. We have had them in place for many years and we pride ourselves in the ability to work with our citizens. They are also in place to coincide with federal regulations we must follow such as those for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). With a passage of this bill, it will eliminate the city and county of Grand Forks to be part of the National Flood Insurance Program and not allow our residents to participate, receive discounts or purchase national flood insurance. All a process that has been well thought out and staff has spent many hours putting a national recognized program together since the flood of 1997 and even prior.

Furthermore, you may hear from those in favor, that places like Fargo, Bismarck and the state of Minnesota has laws or ordinances like HB 1222 in place. I would urge you to disregard as each political subdivision is its own and should be able to operate the way that they see fit to meet the needs of its citizens. Therefore, I am urging a do not pass when HB 1222 comes before you Friday morning.

I would like to thank you in advance and thank you for serving. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Regards.

Brandon

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