

Submitter: Linda Galas-Merten

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1586

Strong Towns North Plains stands in opposition to HB 1586. It is a clear violation of the long-established local planning process. It would set a precedent allowing the state legislature to override Rural Reserves. If allowed into law, it would forever destroy our irreplaceable farmland. Having learned from experience, we fear the land that now produces foods we eat, would be sold to data center developers leaving us with nothing but noise, contaminated water, unsustainable energy bills, and nothing to show for it. Few jobs remain after the centers have been built. We are left with mounting tax burdens due to the property tax waivers given to the developers. If this isn't enough, HB 1586 sates the appetite of those who ignore our commitments. This bill violates the Grand Bargain. This land is meant to stay in Rural Reserve until 2064-65. That was agreed. Can we be a people of our word? We say NO on HB 1586.