



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Good afternoon, Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. I am Representative Benjamin Hymes and I proudly House District 38. I am here today to present LD 438, "An Act to Allow Municipalities to Limit Nonprofit Property Tax Exemptions".

I have received a few phone calls and emails about this bill. There seems to be a misunderstanding about the intent because of the title. I hope to clarify that here.

First, it is important to know that I am the Executive Director for a Non-Profit, so I am not against them at all.

In fact, I believe they are a vital need in our society to help in various aspects of our life. However, they should be a benefit to the public, not a burden.

The limit comes to the burdensome part of certain non-profit organizations. There are non-profits that are taking advantage of the property tax exemption given to them. The issue has now started to creep into our system that some are buying land above and beyond their needs as a non-profit.

This in-turn comes off the towns' tax rolls and increases everyone's property taxes. Many are already stressed to the maximum when it comes to property taxes. This bill gives municipalities the power to recognize the public burden boundary and limit non-profits once they cross it.

In closing, I feel the need to clarify a couple of points. Land-trusts that are intended to preserve the land from development were not meant to be included. We may also need to add in that every non-profit in the municipality have the opportunity to have some tax exempt property but not unlimited property.

Thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions.