



Chair Newton and members,

Thank you to this long list of bipartisan authors and chief author, Representative Wiens. What you are doing today with introducing HF4038 is so important.

I write urging you all to support and pass this bill. Exorbitant property taxes have had a negative impact on our not-for-profit neighborhood Legion Posts. One of our Fifth District Posts, permanently chartered in 1935, faces imminent demise as a direct result these property tax expenses.

The Fifth District currently has twenty Posts on our roster and two Post homes; Vincent Giantvalley Post 234 and Wold-Chamberlain Post 99. Giantvalley has a solid business model, good clientele for retail, charitable gambling profits and a clean and up to date facility.

Wold-Chamberlain is a great example of volunteering efforts sustaining a neighborhood club. The Post welcomes Sunday Pancake and Omelet breakfasts, Fifth District events including monthly meetings and annual Oratorical Contests. They are terrific hosts and Post 99 is capable of continuing operation while meeting ordinary expense levels.

A recent vandalism event, approximates \$15,000 in damages, presents an extraordinary expense that should be mitigated, in some part via insurance, but deductibles etc. need to be addressed from existing Post funds. The ongoing property tax burden is unmanageable.

Immediate property tax relief is indispensable to the future of our American Legion in Minnesota.

We are available for any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Dick Ward

The American Legion 5th District Commander

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