



COUNTY OF BECKER

County Administrator Human Resources

915 Lake Avenue, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
218-846-7309

March 13, 2024

Minnesota Senate

Environment, Climate and Legacy Committee
1150 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Senate File 3557

Dear Committee Members:

Becker County opposes Senate File 3557 for the following reasons:

- Minnesota statutes on the disposal of tax forfeit real property is in the process of being reviewed and new statutes are being drafted, it is not known at this time how this proposal will match up with the new laws regarding the sale of tax forfeit lands by a local unit of government.
- This proposal would not allow previous owners from purchasing property that they lost to the tax forfeiture process if the land is located in an area impacted by this proposed legislation.
- Tax forfeit lands have been historically sold by public auction; Becker County opposes limiting the possible purchasers of tax forfeit land.
- Land that is purchased by Indian Bands may go tax exempt, keeping the properties from being placed on the tax rolls will adversely impact the distribution of the cost of government services in the form of property taxes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Carrie Smith", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carrie Smith, SHRM-CP, MPA
Human Resource Director
Interim Becker County Administrator