

Good morning, Madam Chair and distinguished members of the committee.

My name is Alan Skramstad and I am the Adjutant of Lee Goldsmith Post 201 in Mora.

I have 3 members of our post here with me this morning and we are here to support the Legion in its quest to get this bill passed.

Our post is an original post organized in 1919 when the American Legion began. We have had a storied history of supporting veterans and helping in our community. Three years ago while serving as Mayor of the city of Mora I was searching for a location for a Veterans Memorial Site. While visiting a memorial in nearby Braham I ran into a Vietnam veteran who knew of my search for a site and he said to me quote "The legion builds it I will donate the land". True to his word the land was donated and in two short years we have a memorial built that honors all those who have died in battle and honors all that have served. This site also has a building that we have set up as an indoor memorial with local veterans memorabilia. Uniforms from the last four wars and other collections and stories of the heroes who served this state and country. Now the county wants to tax this site as commercial property to the tune of almost \$7000.00, even though there is no commercial revenue generated on this property. Our post has no intentions of using the site for commercial enterprise, except for meetings and as an educational tool for the community. I must also add that this was a county wide collaboration between the Mora American Legion and the Ogilvie American Legion. The building itself is open to any organization that would like a quiet meeting away from the noise of the other establishments. Currently, we charge no fees to use the meeting room. All we ask is a donation of whatever they can afford to include no donation. Those using the building as of today, the legion, the local boy scouts and the Vietnam Veterans of America. To help with the maintenance of this site the legion runs a golf tournament and one other small community fund raiser. Most of that money goes to support Legion Baseball, the Mora Boy Scouts and veterans in need. Thank you for your time and I hope your support to get this bill passed, to help Posts like ours survive because without it we won't. I will now answer any questions the committee may have.