

Regarding Senate Bill 2252

To whom it may concern,

Hello. My name is Adam Miller, and I am the owner of H2RO, Inc. I would like to voice my support for Senate Bill 2252 for the regulation of public water dispensers.

In January 2019, I purchased a public water dispensing business from a gentleman looking to retire. I operate reverse osmosis machines placed in grocery and convenience stores across central and western North Dakota and Montana.

I strive to keep a high standard of water quality for my customers because I always operate under the assumption that my customers, do not just want purified water but rather that they may actually need purified water for health reasons. This higher standard comes at a higher cost to myself but ensures that my customer's needs are met.

I have noticed and documented that not all of my competition meets the same standard. Often leaving contaminants in their purified water but selling like it is. In March of 2020, I raised my concerns to Senator Oban to determine a course of action to better serve all residents and visitors of North Dakota. With the Senator's assistance, we contacted the Attorney General's office, the North Dakota Department of Health Division of Water Quality, and the North Dakota Department of Health Division of Food and Lodging. We found no satisfactory answers as there were no rules or laws in place regarding these kinds of dispensers. In fact, a person could hook up city water to spigot with no additional processing, advertise that is purified water and sell it as such. Specific contaminants are often advertised as having been removed, such as chlorine, but my analysis has shown that these contaminants often remain at levels near to city water. While chlorine is necessary for water sanitation to transport and store water from city and rural water systems, the water is safe to drink if it has been removed, which is what the customer is paying for. I monitor the water quality of my machine output to ensure that I am selling what is promised to the consumer.

In the other state that I operate, these machines are monitored and regulated. It is not overly burdensome for me to maintain the quality of water and sanitation of the machine required to do business in that state.

I feel that a fair level of regulation would be beneficial to the residents of the state and I ask you to vote in favor of SB 2252. Thank you for your time.

Adam Miller
H2RO, Inc