

HB 1152

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Josette Severson

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Representatives,

My Name is Josette Severson. I own Prairie Patriot Firearms Training in Mandan. In addition to my range and training center, I sell firearms, accessories and cigars. One of the common themes I hear from my guests is "why can't you start a cigar lounge so we have somewhere indoors to smoke our cigars".

The firearms industry is one that not everyone supports. Those who choose to frequent my range support their right as Americans to enjoy shooting sports or for personal protection. Like firearms, the cigar industry is also one that not everyone supports. Thankfully we live in a country that allows their citizens the freedom of choice to indulge in what they enjoy, be it shooting or a good cigar.

With my range and training facility, I adhere to all the state and federal rules and regulations for operating a safe, clean facility. My guest's well-being is the core of my business.

Today, I am asking for myself and other business owners to have the opportunity to operate cigar bars and lounges. HB 1152 details the professional rules and regulations that will ensure a safe environment to enjoy a cigar with other like-minded citizens. Please give us the opportunity to bring a portion the projected 2021 \$9.6 million\* of revenue to North Dakota, which in turn will provide a niche entertainment income, additional employment opportunities and added tax revenue to our great state.

Thank you

\*Source: <https://www.statista.com/outlook/50030000/109/cigars/united-states#market-revenue>