

HB 1169 – Testimony by Dustin Gawrylow (Lobbyist #266) North Dakota Watchdog Network

HB 1169 is a bill to protect the philosophy of a free and open market when government is involved in providing services for the market.

Today, North Dakota's economic needs and its business friendly approach require a way for private industry to react to the various ways North Dakota's business activities affect the free market.

Businesses need a way to petition their government without expending financial costs in court.

By creating a mechanism for businesses to petition the Public Service Commission for an evaluation as to whether the government funded and managed competition they deal with is fair, North Dakota could give businesses a lower cost alternative to lawyers and courts.

This bill grants businesses and individuals access to elected officials who can evaluate the governments' role in the free market effectively, as the PSC already regulates monopolies.

This bill should have limited financial impact on the PSC as any utilization of this law could be worked into the PSC's regular business. Only when there is need for further investigation would there be further costs.

All North Dakotans should seek to find ways to limit the government's involvement in the free market, and thereby limit the taxpayers exposure to market-driven instability.