

Thank you chairman Klemin. My name is Tom Kading and I am a Representative in District 45. This bill HB 1164 today concerns federal executive orders.

Whether you are a democrat, a republican, or something else; I would tend to think most of us here would believe the federal government is highly dysfunctional. Most of what happens in DC seems to be political bickering and vying for media time.

If our state government was any where near as inefficient as DC I would be scared to see what it would be like.

Now in North Dakota we have a lot of good things going for us. We have abundant natural resources, great farm land, and strong personal freedoms. As a state I believe we need to protect these things.

The 6 categories I picked for this bill are focused on the more controversial issue that are impacting the state. This bill prohibits publicly funded organization from implementing an executive order that restricts a person's rights or that the attorney general determines to be unconstitutional.

1. The intent of a. Is to provide some protection against US Executive orders related to the current pandemic. Many people are very opposed to masks and vaccines. My motivation is not because I don't like masks or vaccines but rather to protect the sovereignty of our state. The legislative intent is to not enforce any federal executive order that mandates masks or vaccine, it does not take a position as to if masks or vaccines are a good thing. To me this is solely to the issue of state sovereignty.
2. Subsection b is in regards to our states natural resources. Though I specifically site coal and oil, my intent is to include all natural resources. Coal and oil make a huge part of the GDP in North Dakota. Oil alone makes up about 20% of the states GDP and about half of the state government's budget. Some of the pclean coal and no fracking measures being proposed stand to have a significant impact on our state.
3. Subsections c and d relate to farmland and the use of land in the state. Farming also is a significant part of our heritage and our economy. The proposed Waters of the US stands to have a major impact on the ability for farmers to continue to produce at the levels we currently see. Further the drain tile industry and the cost of drain tile would significantly increase.
4. Subsection e is in relation to lending standards imposed on lenders in North Dakota. This is a tricky one since most banks are regulated at the federal level. Not enforcing an executive order does not mean a bank can't on its own comply with federal regulations. Ultimately, an ESG or Environmental, Social, or Governance standard can have a tremendous impact on our oil and coal sectors. It takes a lot of financing to run these operations, and if ESGs effectively ban the financing of funds to these companies, the impact will crush our oil and coal sectors.

5. The final subsection focuses on second amendment rights. The right to bear arms is another extremely important right held by North Dakotan citizens and I believe it should not be infringed upon by a federal executive order.

All of these issues are important to our state. In my opinion states rights are important to maintain and strongly hold onto. In fact I would further argue that if the states would assert more of their rights against the federal government, some of the dysfunction I referenced at the beginning of this bill may be reduced to some degree.

Ultimately, I urge this committee to take up this bill and protect North Dakota's economy, our citizens rights, and our state sovereignty.

Thank you,