

**TESTIMONY ON SB2157
POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS COMMITTEE
MARY J. SOUCIE
NORTH DAKOTA STATE LIBRARIAN
msoucie@nd.gov
(701)328-4654**

Dear Chairman Burckhard & Members of the Committee,

For the record, I am Mary Soucie, State Librarian of North Dakota, and I am giving testimony in support of SB2157 relating to the membership of the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council. The North Dakota Library Coordinating Council is the State Library's advisory board and the ten members are appointed by the Governor. The three changes that this bill is addressing have been suggested by the North Dakota State Library and the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council jointly.

The current Private Higher Education Institution Library seat can only be filled by a practicing librarian from three institutions: Jamestown University, Trinity Bible College, and the University of Mary. The current Special Library seat can only be filled by a practicing librarian from ten institutions. We are asking to convert these two seats to At-Large Library seats that can be filled by any librarian in the state which will make it easier for those seats to be filled.

The third seat change is to the Public Higher Education Institution Library seat which will become the Higher Education Institution Library seat. This seat can then be filled by anyone from either a public or private institution which makes it clear that eligible institutions include NDUS institutions, the private institutions previously mentioned, and tribal colleges. These representation modifications will not replace the number of Council Members currently appointed to the board. We believe that this change will benefit the North Dakota Library Community by encouraging a larger pool of applicants for each appointment.

Thank you for your time today. I am happy to answer any questions that the committee may have.

Joseph A. Camisa, Jr.

208 10th Ave NE
Mandan, ND 58554

Phone: (701) 204-3402
Email: Joec@thetitleteam.com

Senator Randy Burckhard, Chairman
Political Subdivisions Committee
North Dakota Senate
Bismarck, ND 58504

Dear Chairman Burckhard and members of the Committee,

In my capacity as a private citizen and as one of the Citizens-at-Large appointees to the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council, I am honored to submit this letter in support of SB2157 relating to the membership change of the NDLCC.

As you are aware, the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council assists in the planning, coordinating, and evaluation of services and programs of North Dakota libraries. Since my appointment to the NDLCC by Governor Burgum in July of 2019, I have personally seen the positive contributions the Coordinating Council and State Librarian Mary Soucie have made in fulfilling the Council's mission to support the state library and those across North Dakota.

The Council's capacity to advise State Librarian Soucie and distribute library grants will only continue to be successful if its membership adequately represents the diverse needs of local libraries. I believe the recommended changes to NDCC 54-24.4-01 contained in SB2157 will create the necessary flexibility to ensure all Council positions will be filled in a timely manner to avoid vacancies while strengthening the voice of local libraries both large and small, public and private.

I urge the Senate Political Subdivisions Committee to pass a "Yes Vote" on SB2157. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above referenced phone number or email.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph A. Camisa, Jr.

Joseph A. Camisa, Jr.