

SB 2337
February 12, 2021
Senate Political Subdivisions
Bill Kalanek
National Electrical Contractors Association, Dakotas Chapter
ND Association of Plumbing, Heating & Mechanical Contractors

Good morning Chairman Burckhard and members of the Senate Political Subdivisions committee. My name is Bill Kalanek and I'm before you today representing the both the National Electrical Contractors Association and the ND Association of Plumbing, Heating & Mechanical contractors. Both associations I represent stand opposed to the bill you have before you for consideration.

I have been working in this role for 9 sessions now, this is the 9th session in which I have had to stand in opposition to a bill such as this, 9 times. One of my colleagues here today can attest to this bill predating my career as a lobbyist. The reasons for our united opposition to this bill are simple.

First, arbitrarily identifying a dollar figure and using it as a determinant as to whether or not a design professional is necessary on a project has become increasingly questionable as a policy. Secondly, by raising said threshold by 2.5 times you create a situation where the need for design expertise to ensure the safety of the public is circumvented in favor of saved costs.

As someone who represents contractors you might question my interest in the bill? The contractors I represent see the correlation very clearly as they are asked to do the work that brings these projects to completion and help the design professional execute a plan that serves and safeguards the public. We join our design and construction industry friends in opposing the proposed change to the design threshold and encourage the committee to give the bill a DO NOT PASS recommendation.

Thank you.