

Chairman Headland and Members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee,

My name is Hailey Abrahamson, and I am here as a concerned citizen in support of **Senate Bill 2281**. Tobacco use is a leading cause of preventable disease and death, contributing to heart disease, cancer, and lung conditions that burden families and our healthcare system. One of the most effective ways to reduce tobacco use—especially among youth—is to increase tobacco taxes, as higher prices discourage new users and encourage current users to quit. This bill proposes an increase on cigarettes, cigars, alternative tobacco products, and electronic smoking devices, which would help improve public health and reduce healthcare costs. Supporting this bill is a step toward a healthier North Dakota, and I urge you to give it a **Do Pass** recommendation. Chairman Headland and Members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee, I am here as a concerned citizen in support of Senate Bill 2281 to reduce tobacco use and improve public health. Increasing tobacco taxes—one of the most effective ways to discourage new users and encourage quitting—will help lower rates of heart disease, cancer, and lung conditions, ultimately reducing the burden on families, healthcare providers, and the state

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Hailey Abrahamson

Concerned Citizen, Fargo, ND