

HB 1398

**Chairman Barta and Committee Members**

I am Terry Schwartzberger, publisher/owner of the Napoleon Homestead, a weekly newspaper in south-central North Dakota and I would like to offer a DO Pass recommendation on HB 1398.

I am a second-generation newspaper owner and have had the privilege of serving people in this part of the state with news, advertising and public notices for over four decades. The readers of the Napoleon Homestead appreciate being able to view and read public notices in their local newspaper. This newspaper dates back almost 139 years and has been the 'go-to' medium for finding information which may affect area residents. The Napoleon Homestead has been part of the publication process of insurance abstracts for a long time and we would like to continue to be part of that mix of all the state's newspapers who are providing public information to each and every one of their readers. The change for 2025 calls for the state's largest newspapers to handle all publication of the insurance abstracts, a change which will be noticed by Napoleon Homestead readers as well as being a financial hit to this independently owned and operated newspaper.

I believe offering a DO PASS vote on 1398, will return publishing practices to the way they were, making insurance abstracts assessable to all North Dakotans. I also believe the insurance companies in general are navigating a new area with the huge number of losses mounting across the country due to fire and weather-related disasters. By having insurance companies publish their financial positions across the state, for customers and potential customers, it's just a form of transparency which is good for all.

I appreciate your time and strongly urge a DO PASS on HB 1398.

**Terry Schwartzberger**

Publisher/Owner

Napoleon Homestead

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