

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Joe Mongeon and am testifying in opposition to House Bill 1258 As a concerned citizen, I believe this bill would have negative consequences for our community, and I urge you to reconsider its passage.

In this bill it states “A permit for the construction of an electric transmission facility superseding and preempting local land use or zoning laws.” For our local state representatives to pass this bill in one legislative branch, let alone the House, is unacceptable for several reasons:

- 1. Loss of Local Control** – Local governments best understand the needs of their communities. This bill would strip cities, townships, and counties of their ability to regulate land use in ways that reflect their priorities.
- 2. Disregard for Community Impact** – Residents and businesses affected by transmission projects may have concerns about property values, safety, and environmental impact. Local governments provide an essential layer of oversight to address these concerns, which this bill would remove.
- 3. Property Rights Violations** – Landowners may find themselves unable to challenge the placement of transmission lines, even if it negatively impacts their property. Preempting zoning laws can force unwanted infrastructure onto private land.
- 4. Potential for Overreach** – Once local regulations are overridden, there may be fewer legal avenues for communities to push back against future energy infrastructure projects that they oppose.
- 5. Environmental and Economic Harm** – Local zoning laws are often in place to protect farmland, wildlife habitats, and residential areas. Overriding these protections could lead to long-term environmental and economic damage.

It is crucial that we make thoughtful decisions that will benefit all North Dakotans, not create challenges or hardship for vulnerable populations.

I urge you to vote against HB1258, and I respectfully ask that you carefully consider the broader implications of this legislation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joe Mongeon

