

Testimony Opposing North Dakota House Bill 1258

To the members of the committee. My name is Michael Long, and I am here today to express my strong opposition to House Bill 1258, particularly the amendment that seeks to make its provisions retroactive to January 2025.

While I am opposed to this entire bill, I believe that retroactively applying its provisions sets a dangerous precedent. Retroactive legislation undermines the principles of fairness and predictability that are fundamental to our legal system. Individuals, businesses, and communities make decisions based on the laws in place at the time. Changing the rules after the fact creates uncertainty and erodes trust in the legislative process.

Specifically, the retroactive application of this bill could have significant negative consequences for landowners. In the case of JETx, the retroactive amendment goes back prior to the utility company's information meetings. This is not only unfair but also counterproductive to fostering a stable and predictable environment for growth and development in our state.

I urge the committee to consider the broader implications of this amendment. The goals of House Bill 1258 would take away landowners, township and county rights and the retroactive application undermines the very principles of justice and fairness that our state prides itself on.

I respectfully request that you reject HB 1258 and amendment making it retroactive.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Michael Long, landowner
Berlin, ND