

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to urge you to vote no on HB1258.

I firmly believe in local governance and the right of townships and counties to make decisions that best serve landowners and residents. HB 1258 undermines this principle by stripping local governments of their authority and allowing energy companies to bypass landowners to push corporate energy projects through—regardless of landowner opposition.

This bill prioritizes corporate interests over the rights of North Dakota's landowners and communities. It takes away local decision-making power and sets a dangerous precedent for disregarding the voices of those most affected.

The retroactive application of this bill is also very concerning. This could nullify decisions that have already been made by townships, like Conditional Use Permit denials, such as in Wano and Willowbank Townships in LaMoure County. Overruling these established decisions would further undermine local governance and public trust.

I strongly urge you to reject HB 1258 and stand with North Dakota landowners in protecting their rights.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lucas Wald
Edgeley, ND
District 28