

Chair Roers and Members of Senate State and Local Government Committee,

My name is Zoe Absey and I am here today in strong opposition to House Bill 1307, which would prohibit localities from adopting alternative voting methods. This bill undermines home rule and takes away the ability of local communities to decide what voting system works best for their residents.

Alternative voting methods, such as approval voting, allow voters to express their preferences more fully. Instead of being forced to choose between only two candidates, voters can rank multiple candidates in order of preference. This system provides a more accurate reflection of voter support and ensures that elected officials have broader backing from their constituents.

Local governments should have the right to choose the best electoral system for their communities. Stripping this authority limits innovation in democracy and prevents localities from implementing solutions that increase voter satisfaction and engagement.

I urge you to vote against HB 1307 and allow North Dakota's local governments to make decisions that best serve their voters. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you,

Zoe Absey