



Good Morning,

Thank you for hearing my testimony on HB 1159. I would like to start by introducing myself. My name is Jarett Schatz, and I own Tri-N-Propane in Minot with my wife Amanda. I also sit on the Board of Directors for the North Dakota Propane Gas Association. Tri-N Propane is a small business that employs 5, soon to be 6, hard-working North Dakotans whose main job is to keep people warm during the colder temps, much like the natural gas sector of our state. We are pro natural gas. Nearly all of the propane delivered in our state comes directly from natural gas resources, much of it produced locally in the Bakken. We need to vote NO on HB 1159.

Many other propane companies along with ours in the state receive no help from state funding, while at the same time, we inject 700 million dollars into the states GDP. We provide service to 40,000 plus homes and roughly 5,000 businesses. We do that by ourselves. We do that with our time, with our money, and with our sacrifice. We have skin in the game which makes us work harder and fight harder, so we don't lose what we've built. When we want to expand or build our customer base, we have to put up our hard-earned capitol or go visit our lending institution to secure funding.

Millions of OUR private dollars have been spent by marketers in this state to meet the needs of rural customers and smaller communities. We try and ensure a Safe, Efficient, and Affordable source of energy. We have never asked or received any legislation to expand our reach in our state. If we want to grow, we dip into our pockets. All we are asking for is free enterprise. Government does not need to step in and make big companies bigger and eliminate the need for competition and free market enterprise. Please vote NO on HB 1159.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jarett Schatz", written over a horizontal line.

Jarett Schatz
Tri-N-Propane