

Testimony to the  
**House Industry, Business and Labor Committee**  
January 20, 2020  
Chairman Chad Peterson, Cass County Commission

**Regarding: House Bill 1260**

Chairman Lefor and committee members, my name is Chad Peterson and I am Chairman of the Cass County Commission and serve on the North Dakota County Commissioners Association Board of Directors. I'm here to request a **DO NOT PASS** of HB 1260 regarding relating to a wage and salary moratorium on state or local officials and employees if certain temporary restrictions on businesses are imposed. As you're aware, local governments have any number of responsibilities that would potentially limit the productivity of a business and this bill would set us all up to fail.

The law is so broadly written it would prevent public officials and staff from getting paid if we were to modify a drain or culvert and one business, like a farm, would have to divert from the shortest possible route to a field because of this disruption.

Additionally, there is no shortage of examples that would be out of anyone's control. An example would be affecting our neighbors operations during a response to a natural disaster like a flood. In the name of public safety our actions limit business operations to some degree or another in almost every natural disaster.

Further, every level of local government has ongoing activities that could never be accounted for. An example would be the upgrades we are doing in Cass for our 911 system. There will be a place and time where we will be restricting one or more businesses as we modify our technical infrastructure or erect one of our additional signal towers that are required to provide the connectivity our citizens expect and deserve.

The real answer to this, and concerns like it, is the local electorate needs to elect the people that represent them and rely on their good judgment to make the right choices.

Again, I urge a **DO NOT PASS** of HB 1260 regarding relating to a wage and salary moratorium on state or local officials and employees if certain temporary restrictions on businesses are imposed.