

Industry, Business, and Labor Committee

ATTN: Mike Lefor, Chair  
George Keiser, Vice Chair  
Mary Adams  
Pamela Anderson  
Jared C. Hagert  
Jim Kasper  
Scott Louser  
Dave Nehring  
Emily O'Brien  
Mitch Ostlie  
Dan Ruby  
Austen Schauer  
Greg Stemen  
Paul J. Thomas

RE: Written Testimony on House Bill 1442

Chairman Lefor and Members of the Industry, Business, and Labor Committee,

My name is Courtney Davis Souvannasacd. I am writing in support of House Bill 1442 - relating to late fees on rents under a rental agreement.

As the Board President of the High Plains Fair Housing Center, this is important to me as it ensures critical protection to tenants that may be facing hardships and especially those experiencing extenuating circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While this legislation protects North Dakota renters from excessive late fees, this amendment does not carry the intent to overburden property management or offload the responsibility of tenants. As part of the rental agreement, this cap on late fees will set an amount for what is considered reasonable across the state. As proposed, a cap of 8% aligns with a majority of property management companies within North Dakota.

By establishing a threshold, tenants understand their obligations and landlords are more likely to receive the rental payments rather than non-payment as a result of compounding late fees. This is a fair solution to all parties and keeps people housed – a basic human need.

Chairman Lefor, and members of the Industry, Business, and Labor Committee, I urge a DO pass on HB 1442.

Thank you,

Courtney Davis Souvannasacd  
Grand Forks, North Dakota