

North Dakota AFL-CIO

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Testimony of Landis Larson, ND AFL-CIO President In Opposition of HB 1207 January 26, 2021

Representative Klemin and members of the House Judiciary Committee: My name is Landis Larson, President of the North Dakota AFL-CIO. The North Dakota AFL-CIO is the federation of labor unions in North Dakota, representing the interests of all working people in our state.

I am testifying on behalf of the North Dakota AFL-CIO in opposition of House Bill 1207.

While I am no legal expert, it does seem to me that this bill puts many arbitrary roadblocks in the way of asbestos disease victims who, at no fault of their own, were exposed to a dangerous substance at work and are now seeking a remedy at the courthouse.

This bill really doesn't benefit anyone in North Dakota. The only ones who stand to benefit from this model legislation are those in the insurance industry, far from here. We know our membership has had substantial asbestos exposure over the years, and many non-union North Dakota workers have been exposed to asbestos as well. They deserve to have a fair hearing on their claims in court as they have since the 1980's.

I recommend a "Do Not Pass" on House Bill 1207.

Respectfully Submitted, Landis Larson North Dakota AFL-CIO President