

Testimony on SB2279

Rep. David Monson

District 19

Good morning Chairman Thomas and members of the House Agriculture Committee. For the record I am Rep. David Monson from District 19 in far northeastern ND which includes all of Pembina County, most of Walsh County, and the eastern portion of Cavalier County.

I'm here to testify in favor of SB2279 which is before you today. I prepared a very similar bill to be introduced at the start of the session, but we decided this would be the vehicle to fix the problem we have been having in our area dealing with the taxation of personal potato storage facilities. It seems there has been some gray area in how various counties have taxed potato houses, and this bill should clarify it so all entities are able to get a clear message on how the taxes should be levied.

We had help from Commissioner Kroshus on writing the bill so it should be a good clean bill. I know the Senate made some changes to the original bill, and I think it is an improved bill now that considers various situations where one may end up renting bin space from their relatives.

I think you have some of my constituents online who can give you some testimony on how they have been affected by their potato house that was built years ago on ag land that has now been surrounded by the town and industry over the years. This has resulted in a change in their tax category that increased their property tax to a very extreme level despite no change in their operation of their farm. It is still for the storage of their personal farm commodities.

This bill is a good bill that should solve the problems we have in my area and be fair to everyone. It specifically says the building must be for storage of crops raised on their farm and be only for personal use. No commercial activity can be done there.

Thank you for your time and I'll stand for any questions.