

Testimony of Michael Burke in support of SB 2009 Relating to providing an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the agriculture commissioner, to create and enact a new section relating to establishment of a post-production royalty oversight program.

Michael Burke is the owner of pharmaceutical company, Lincoln Therapeutics, LLC and co-founder of a GMP Pharmaceutical Packaging joint venture TWL Pharma Pac, LLC (Thrifty White Lincoln Pharma Pac). Both entities are North Dakota LLC's and located in Fargo.

I am a 20 plus year pharmaceutical business operator and investor. My companies have acquired, developed, obtained FDA approval for and commercialized multiple pharmaceutical products and I have built and sold two specialty pharmaceutical companies thus far in my career. The ND Bioscience Association recruited my military medicine focused specialty pharmaceutical company, Lincoln Therapeutics, to locate and grow the business in North Dakota. Our company is developing spray pharmaceutical products to address unmet healthcare needs. Our most advanced product is Intranasal Ketamine being developed as a Non-Narcotic Far Forward Battlefield Analgesia/Anesthesia in collaboration with active-duty medical researchers employed by the Department of Defense/Uniformed Services University. In addition to our collaboration with the Department of Defense, I entered into a collaboration agreement with Thrifty White in May of 2022 to establish a specialty pharmaceutical contract packaging business, TWL Pharma Pac, LLC, located on 38th Street NW in Fargo. The JV business will package pharmaceutical products according to GMP requirements, release, warehouse and distribute Lincoln products and other pharmaceutical products business that I am bringing to the state.

We believe that our two North Dakota based businesses will deliver several benefits to North Dakotans, to men and women serving in our Armed Services, to Veterans and to the civilian population. First, North Dakotans, the 125 Thrifty White employees working at the Fargo Central Fill facility, will benefit from training in pharmaceutical GMP's (good manufacturing practices) up-skill and up-training personnel with pharmacy technician certifications. We will hire up to 40 additional employees as we grow the operations offering opportunities for promotions for current staff and new positions to be filled. Second, men and women serving in our Armed Services will benefit from our Non-Narcotic Analgesia/Anesthesia product reducing the use of harmful opioids that can lead to addiction and death. Third, Veterans will have access to our Non-Narcotic Analgesia/Anesthesia product through the VA system reducing the use of harmful opioids that can lead to addiction and death in the veteran population. Finally, the general civilian population will benefit from access to Non-Narcotic Analgesia/Anesthesia product.

I believe The North Dakota Department of Agriculture Bioscience Innovation programs are important resources to attract new innovative business to the State, support worthwhile innovation and research being conducted that has both economic development benefits and human benefits to North Dakotans and important groups outside the State. I fully support SB 2009 Relating to providing an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the agriculture commissioner, to create and enact a new section relating to establishment of a post-production royalty oversight program.

Thank You,

Michael Burke