



ND Hospitality
Association

Testimony of Rudie Martinson
Executive Director of the North Dakota Hospitality Association
Before the House Finance and Taxation Committee
March 7, 2023

Chairman Headland and members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee,

My name is Rudie Martinson, and I submit my testimony today in my capacity as Executive Director of the North Dakota Hospitality Association. The ND Hospitality Association is the trade association for our state's restaurant, lodging, and retail beverage industries.

We stand in support of our fellow retail business to urge a "Do Pass" motion on HB 2217. Our bars, restaurants, and hotels act as a tax collecting agent for the state whenever we swipe a credit card, and pay the swipe fee for the tax collected on top of the cost of services rendered or goods sold. This bill seeks to remove the state and local tax collected on those transactions from the swipe fee – effectively eliminating an added cost incurred by our members to credit card companies for collecting and remitting this tax.

As you know, the past three years have been uniquely challenging for all sectors of business, and particularly so for businesses in the hospitality industry. This bill will provide relief from an undue and possibly unintentional burden.

Restaurants, hotels, and bars are the cornerstones of the social fabric of our communities. We host the anniversary or graduation dinner, the big conference that became a turning point in your career, and the time you need to wind down after a tough day at work. We ask that you give this bill your favorable consideration so we do not have to continue to pay an additional fee to private companies because we dutifully assist the state and local governments in collecting taxes.

On behalf of the North Dakota Hospitality Association and the restaurant, lodging, and retail beverage industries, I urge a "Do Pass" vote

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rudie Martinson
Executive Director
North Dakota Hospitality Association