

# House Government & Veterans Affairs Committee

## House Bill 1368

Andrew Alexis Varvel

### Additional Written Testimony

North Dakota State Capitol

February 2, 2023

Pioneer Room

2:30AM

## Chairman Schauer and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Alexis Varvel. I live in Bismarck.

My opposition to this bill boils down to two aspects of “North Dakota First”.

First of all, I am philosophically opposed to adding extra red tape to North Dakota's investment portfolios and purchasing contracts.

I also think the BDS movement is better shunned than openly confronted.

Imitation is the highest form of flattery. So, North Dakota should considering imitating Israel's Yozma program to promote high tech venture capital.

Secondly, if we do decide to go down the route of mixing politics and procurement, the State of North Dakota needs to make a point of caring more about boycotts against North Dakota than about boycotts against Israel.

This is not only about us. It is also about Israel. We would do the State of Israel no favors if our state cares more about a boycott against Israel than a boycott against North Dakota. Not putting North Dakota first would play into the worst kind of Jew hating propaganda over the past century and hand Israel's worst enemies a major propaganda victory. America has very important strategic reasons to support the State of Israel; let's keep maudlin sentimentality out of it.

The State of California has already levied economic sanctions on North Dakota.

<https://www.kxnet.com/news/national-news/california-bans-state-funded-travel-to-nd-4-other-states-over-lgbtq-laws/>

<https://www.csustan.edu/financial-support-services-gateway/staff-faculty/banned-states-assembly-bill-1887>

This travel ban has already affected academic conferences in North Dakota.

California's pretext for this embargo may be pro-LGBTQ+ ideology, but it is principally because the State of California is simply casting judgment on other Americans. It hardly matters that the State of California is in no position to cast moral judgment on any other state. North Dakota decriminalized homosexuality before California did, while California's first bond issue was for killing Indians.

The State of California's sanctions are highly offensive. If these sanctions are not rescinded soon, our state should respond with counter-measures to convince the State of California to cease and desist. My recommended asymmetric strategy is outlined in the testimony that I have previously provided to the House Industry, Business & Labor Committee. I am also recommending that the State of North Dakota establish a separate prison for transgender and nonbinary inmates, which would provide an obvious contrast to California's own human rights record.

I oppose House Bill 1368. It has good intentions. And we all know where a road goes when it is paved with good intentions. We should be focusing on boycotts against North Dakota before focusing on any boycotts against a foreign country.

So, please give this bill a DO NOT PASS recommendation.

Thank you. I welcome questions from the committee.

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