

S.B. 2347

Chairman Schauer and member of Government & Veterans Affairs

I am Glenn Moen from Grand Forks; I work for a smaller commercial general contractor. I am a past president of the associated General Contractors of North Dakota (AGC).

I first started coming to the capital to testify on construction related bills in 1993, and with my involvement with AGC I have been in Bismarck for most of the sessions since then. So, a bill similar to this, to raise the threshold of either bidding or design procurement has been introduced in most sessions. As Mr. Hanson stated when the thresholds are different for building and design it causes confusion. I have a long-standing relationship with the Architects & Engineers in town and they will call me to ask questions about the threshold. So, I know firsthand that if the threshold is not at the same level, it causes confusion. I just had a meeting on a project with a political subdivision that we discovered asbestos and I had to clarify to them the bidding requirements for them to get it abated.

When I watched the bill hearing in the Senate the few that supported this bill talked about the time it takes the designer to finish the plans, this sounds to me like someone isn't taking the time to plan the project.

Some of the supporters also talked about why they can't use prefabricated units or structures. So, do you think these manufacturers design that many different types of units to meet each different type of soils in the state? Or which seismic zone do they base their designs on.

In Grand Forks we recently had a partial structural failure, where a gusset plate failed and cause a beam to roll. Luckily only one bay sunk a few inches, or do you remember the bridge that collapsed in the cities a few years ago, it too was a gusset plate failure. So I took most of the math in school as engineers do and I still have my Statics & Strength of Materials book with all tables & formulas, but it been a long time since I did the math on a daily basis, so I hire engineers on my private project.

My field of expertise is building not design and codes. So, I consult with the professional or hire them for design or for plans reviews of the ones I draw up myself. There is a big difference drawing up a plan based on my experience of what I typically see and a design professional going through all the steps and review processes.

In the Senate testimony they talked about the cost it adds to a project. Some things to consider. Grand Forks would require a stamped set of plans to get a building permit for a million-dollar project. So even if say UND didn't hire an Architect I would have to and I would have their costs in my bid.

If the political subdivision doesn't hire the architect for any project under a million who is designing and drawing the plans for me to bid on. It would have to be a staff person; how many political subdivisions have qualified designers on staff and do they have that large of staffs to be designing job?

Thank you for your time, and I will attempt to answer any questions.