

House Bill 1143  
1-10-23  
9:00 am  
North Dakota State Capitol

My name is Mike Anderson. I have worked with Bierschbach Equipment & Supply for 25 years in Fargo, ND.

I am testifying in favor of house bill 1143.

Bierschbach Equipment & Supply engages in the rental of construction equipment such as skidsteer loaders, telescopic forklifts, boom lifts, excavators, and many others.

When a customer rents equipment we ask for name, address, phone number, drivers license, and method of payment and signature. We typically gather payment via credit card and bill the amount up front for the agreed to term of the rental. Customer will not get the equipment without that initial payment. We have had times where the credit card is eventually declined and then we need to contact the customer regarding payment. Most are rectified, but we have had times where the customer phone is disconnected and the card is no longer good and the customer still has the equipment and wont return it.

The police wont help as they deem it a civil matter. I could get a small claims judgement on the unpaid rentals, but if the customer doesn't return the equipment the rentals keep adding up.

I currently have a customer who rented a \$40,000 mini excavator and the card was good for 3 months, but now he has had the excavator for 7 months with the last 4 months of declined credit card payments at \$2600 per month. The customer provided his parents address, his phone number is no longer in service and hasn't returned the equipment. Right now there is no penalty for not returning and not paying.

Imagine if someone rented a car in North Dakota and moved to Florida and kept the car and canceled the credit card. That seems like theft.

Thank you for your consideration of my support of House Bill 1143.

Mike Anderson  
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