

Mr. Chairman and Members of the committee,

Ben Stiegelmeier, Harvey, ND.

I am a young auctioneer with my own business based in Harvey, North Dakota. I also help other auctioneers around the state. I have been in the business for 7 years. I am licensed and bonded in ND, and Virginia. I have conducted auctions in ND, SD, VA, and UT. I utilize both online and traditional auction methods and reach buyers across the country and around the globe. HB 1191 will harm the auction industry and will not protect the public as it is intended. If it becomes law, it would prevent some future young, first-generation auctioneers like myself from being part of this great and important profession.

I have spoken with many auctioneers over this last couple of weeks about HB 1191 and these are some of our thoughts and concerns.

1. The PSC has been doing a great job regulating in-person auctions.
2. There are few complaints against auctioneers and less payouts on the bond.
3. The structure of the proposed auctioneers board would not be "self-regulating" the auction industry. Instead, Auctioneers regulating auctioneers is a conflict of interest and would decrease competition.
4. The proposed auctioneers board would increase barriers to entry for people like myself and not represent or protect consumers.
5. The proposed board would cost the taxpayers more with no benefit to the public.
6. The proposed board does not regulate online auctions which are most of the auction industry in our state.
7. Either regulate traditional auctions and online auctions in an equitable way or deregulate the whole industry.

I would be happy to visit with you and share more on the background of the bill and how it will affect the auction industry and the public. Please vote Do Not Pass on HB 1191. Thank you!

Respectfully,

Ben Stiegelmeier
605-850-1330