

January 12, 2023

To whom it may concern,

My name is Bryan Wilburn, and I reside in Fargo with my wife and five children. I am writing today to express my support for House Bill 1229.

Smoking cigars is not an illegal activity. Furthermore, the danger premium cigars pose for increased underage tobacco use is virtually none.

According to an FDA commissioned study from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) titled, *Premium Cigars: Patterns of Use, Marketing and Health Effects*, only .6% of those who smoke premium cigars were under the age of 18.

My testimony today is a simple one: to encourage you all to vote yes and adopt a common-sense amendment to our current North Dakota smoking restrictions. If a tax paying citizen wishes to open an establishment with the purpose of creating a space for cigar consumers to enjoy them, they should be free to do so.

This bill does nothing to bring harm to those who want to avoid smoking and second-hand smoke. Those who do not wish to be exposed have an easy solution: don't work at or patron a cigar lounge.

But those citizens who wish to start or attend a cigar lounge should be allowed this privilege. It is not job of the state to determine if a citizen, who knows the risks, has the right to partake in a legal activity.

Respectfully,

Bryan T. Wilburn