

*Complaining about a
problem without proposing a
solution is called whining.*
-Teddy Roosevelt



Bette B. Grande
President & CEO

**Testimony before the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee
Regarding HB 1283
January 24, 2023**

Chairman Louser and members of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee:

My name is Bette Grande, I am the CEO of Roughrider Policy Center and Policy Director for the ProFamily Legislative Network, thank you for allowing me to testify on HB 1283.

You will probably hear today that HB 1283 is a 'solution looking for a problem'. You will hear that financial institutions in North Dakota are not using Environment, Social, and Governance methods or any form of social credit scoring.

If that is true HB 1283 requires nothing. It simply puts up a guardrail.

But, if financial service providers are fundamentally changing the way they do business the consumer should and must be notified, it is only fair.

There is no question that the ESG movement is spreading, just ask our lignite industry. In 2021 a representative of lignite testified that insurance premiums for coal companies were being raised without cause or incident. Large insurance companies are all in on ESG.

Last week in Davos at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum the CEO of Bank of America spoke of new rules to reboot capitalism. And the European Union will finalize new ESG reporting rules that will trickle down the supply chain and impact North Dakota producers.

Reboot capitalism? We know what that means for our energy industry and production agriculture.

How much of this is happening in North Dakota? That is what HB 1283 will find out, it is a sunshine bill simply requiring disclosure to businesses and individuals in North Dakota.

This Bill does not dictate how a bank or insurance company operates or who they choose as a

customer, but it does require full disclosure of ESG or social credit criteria if a business implements those policies.

You will likely hear that HB1283 puts heavy regulations on independent banks, that is a scare tactic. If a bank continues to use traditional financial criteria with its customers, the Bill requires nothing. But if a bank chooses – or is forced to implement ESG criteria by its correspondent bank - it requires disclosure to consumers.

If it is no longer business as usual, consumers need to know. A small price to pay for transparency.

I am also provided supplemental Testimony with links to source material if you want to get a better handle on the ESG movement.

With that I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

For Liberty,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bette Grande".

Bette Grande

Bette Grande is CEO of Roughrider Policy Center, North Dakota's Policy Think Tank, and Policy Director for WallBuilders ProFamily Legislative Network