

## Testimony on SB2279

Rep. David Monson

District 19

Good morning Chairman Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee. For the record I am Rep. David Monson from District 19 in far northeastern ND which includes all of Pembina County, most of Walsh County, and the eastern portion of Cavalier County.

I'm here to testify in favor of SB2279 which is before you today. I prepared a very similar bill to be introduced on the House side, but somehow I didn't get the button pushed on the bill, so this is the only vehicle we have to fix the problem we have been having in our area dealing with the taxation of personal potato storage facilities. It seems there has been some gray area in how various counties have taxed potato houses, and this bill should clarify it so all entities are able to get a clear message on how the taxes should be levied.

The only differences between SB2279 and my version is that I didn't require step 5 on page 2, the annual filing of an application with the county auditor. I'm not sure this is needed, but I'll leave that up to you to determine. And I didn't name individually each commodity in 6 (a) on the bottom of page 2 and top of page 3. My bill defined, "Agricultural commodities" as including cereal grains, oilseeds, meat, dairy, other soft commodities, and miscellaneous agricultural commodities. Maybe that is too broad, but my thinking was that it could include such things as honey, a huge commodity in ND now, and other new crops we may miss in the list. Again, maybe not worth amending. I actually heard some comments on the House side that my list was too broad in this regard, so maybe this is better left more specific.

One other thing that you may consider could be adding cousins to the list of direct relatives. We had help from Commissioner Kroshus on writing the bills, so he may have better ideas than I do. My bill didn't include cousins either, but I think about the situation I found myself in a few years ago which I think is very common. I was renting a farm from my aunt and uncle who were up in age. They passed away, and the farm was passed on to their kids, my cousins. Thus, I was suddenly renting from my cousins which could have been a problem. You may consider adding cousins to the list if you deem it practical.

Thank you for your time and I'll stand for any questions.