

Testimony -SB 2217

January 25, 2023

Senate Finance and Taxation Committee

Chairman Kannianen and Members of the Senate Finance and Taxation Committee.

Regarding SB 2217

My name is Torry Reutter, I am part owner and General Manager of Miller's Fresh Foods. We own and operate ten retail grocery stores in smaller North Dakota towns.

I am asking that you give a "do pass" recommendation on SB 2217

We are independent retail grocery stores and serve several towns in ND that are affected by this Bill.

I have been in this business a short 18 years and understand the cost of accepting credit cards. In current times, it is a must for us to accept credit cards as not many of our customers carry cash or checkbooks anymore. I'm sure even all of you here listening to me have changed the way you pay for things today.

This change in payment options has placed these 2-4% fees on us as retailers.

This goes directly to the bottom line of a business.

Credit card companies and banks should not profit off of us for collecting sales tax for our state.

What we are simply asking is that the sales tax portion we collect for the state of ND is not part of the credit card fees. Our state will still collect the taxes and we as retailers will not be penalized for being required to collect the sales tax.

In closing I would like to thank you all for allowing my testimony and would urge a "do pass" on SB 2217