

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

*-Teddy Roosevelt*



**Bette B. Grande**  
*President & CEO*

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Senate Business and Labor Committee  
Testimony on of HB 1368  
March 15, 2023

Chairman Larsen and Members of the Committee:

My name is Bette Grande and I thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony in favor of HB 1368.

This bill will benefit North Dakota's economy and reinforce our public policy to responsibly use taxpayer funds, while placing only minimal administrative demands upon the state.

In the other chamber a good deal of work on amendments to assure the bill was workable too place but some of the language was left off and I am offering that important language to you now.

First, let me begin by clarifying HB 1368's underlying rationale. The bill will create a basic anti-discrimination law that safeguards state funds from going to parties who would otherwise undermine important public policy protections that many North Dakotans rely upon. As you know, North Dakota regulates against many forms of discrimination and has a duty to invest and spend state funds prudently. HB 1368 keeps the threat of national origin-based bias away from our state's economy by defending our procurement and investment processes against discriminatory, unethical, and politically motivated business partners.

Contracting parties subject to the law would only need to submit a basic certification that they do not engage in discriminatory commercial practices as specified in the statute. Officials would only need to undertake inquiries after being notified of particular cases where there is reason to believe parties may be participating in commercial discrimination prohibited by the statute.

Thirty-five states have already adopted such anti-discrimination laws with overwhelming success demonstrated in their implementation and enforcement.

In passing HB 1368, North Dakota will stand with these other states and protect public money from going to parties who choose to operate their businesses in ways that are against vital states interests.

Israel based companies are on the cutting edge in every major sector of our economy, with 85 companies listed on the New York Stock Exchange, and the third-highest number of companies listed on the NASDAQ exchange after the USA and China. This bill protects North Dakota's right to free trade with Israel.

Israel is a strong and growing trade partner with benefits to our economy and the quality of life of North Dakotans in health sciences, agriculture and water, energy, all areas of tech R&D, and more. HB 1368 shows our commitment to maintain and grow this relationship.

I am happy to address any questions that you have for me.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bette Grande". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Bette Grande