

1.26.2023

To the North Dakota legislators

I am writing this message to speak out in support of the proposed Senate bill 2228. What is happening now is just plain old trespassing. My Grandfather, Mr. John Oliver Smith and Grandmother, Matilda Smith homesteaded our farm over 100 years ago. He came from Sweden via New York and Minnesota to make a better life for him and his family They brought with them three children. We cannot imagine what courage it took to do this and even begin to understand the suffering they went through. Imagine leaving your family, country and the entire life that you've ever known to start completely over in a different world where you do not even speak the same language. Thinking of this now it is truly all remarkable. They had to break up the sod on the prairie to try and grow crops to survive. My Grandparents endured hardships that we will never completely understand, just to have something for their children to hold on too for as long as they wanted it.

Why should ANYONE be able to trespass or take another man's property just because they want to make a profit. As we should all be stewards of this earth – please do what is right and keep the farmers and landowners safe from something you can control. This is their land top to bottom, do not make the past sacrifices meaningless.

Respectfully,

Tammie Smith Somers – granddaughter of an original homesteader