

Written testimony in support of HB 1508

Senate State and Local Government Committee

Chairwoman Senator Karen Roers, members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee.

My name is Daryl Dukart, I am a past Dunn County Commissioner, served on the Killdeer Area Ambulance District Board for ten years, along with many other local, regional, state, and national boards.

The state auditor's office charging the fees they do when performing Audit's. This State Auditors Department is operating and funded by the state under a two-year planned budget which you as legislator finalize every biennium.

This is what happened: Killdeer Area Ambulance District was selected to be audited and that is fine. As I do not disagree with the fact that small local fire and ambulance district should be audited every so often by someone. But when your district receives billing from the state auditor's office for an end amount of \$48,650 this is totally wrong to perform the audit for 2017-2020. It took them 565 plus hours to do the three-year audits. Seems to be a very high number of hours for three years when the annual for KAAS is a little over 1 million dollars annually.

As I have listened to testimony when HB1508 was in the House Political Subdivision committee and I have also read the many comments made by our State Auditor and reviews by media reporters, have had one on one discussions with state some of the Representatives and Senators over the last 30 days. Makes me wonder what do we have going on in this state department?

In Galion's testimony on HB1508 he referred to a Dunn County Commissioner placing the request for the audit. Well, this is a false statement because I was still a county commissioner at this time, and it was not a request of anyone of the commissioners or as a Dunn County Commission body. Also if century code demands that Killdeer Area Ambulance was to file an annual audit, "why "is it I cannot remember during my last three years of being a board member of KAAS during the years of 2017-2021 that a request letter was not received from the state auditors department noticing us that we are delinquent in our reports to the state auditor's office.

After review of many of the different bills which deal with the State Auditor's office, I wonder about fairness to all from this department at the time. HB1129 was withdrawn and I was told it will be covered under appropriations. "What" I told myself, under appropriations, I do not believe that appropriation should be the committee to solve the issues when so much of this is policy and in the Century Code. 54-10

Maybe it's time for our legislation process and legal council to review and redesign the State Auditor's office and policies. I believe strongly HB1508 IS an excellent start and ask your support for a do pass.

I also feel that KAAS along with others should receive a greater refund than the \$2000 presently being talked about. Even if I totally disagree with the fact that the State Auditor office charges fees for their work preformed and that you legislation establish a budget for his FTE's which should cover those cost. 565 hours for a three year review is lots of hours I feel a sum of about \$10,000 should be credited from the State Auditor's office to KAAS.

Daryl Dukart

Dunn County Retired Citizen