

March 23, 2023

Senate State & Local Government Committee HB 1528
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CHAIRMAN ROERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

My name is Jack McDonald. I'm here on behalf of the North Dakota Newspaper and Broadcasters Associations. We support this bill and ask for your do pass recommendation.

Open records laws were part of the Dakota Territorial Laws and are enconced in our Constitution. They have served North Dakota citizens well and have made North Dakota one of the nation's leaders in government transparency and citizen access to public information.

However, like so many facets of our lives these days, technology is making major differences. One of those is public records. Our open records laws were written when there were actual written paper records to deal with. Now paper records are almost a thing of the past and nearly all public business is conducted online via different platforms.

HB 1528 goes a long way to make sure these records remain open and to the public.

We respectfully request your do pass on this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.