

Madam Chairman Roers and committee members. I am Senator Keith Boehm from district 33 and here to testimony in support of an amended version of SB2339

The amended SB 2339 is a bill to improve the confidence of the voters in North Dakota elections. The bill will allow the Secretary of state office to select a local election randomly post-election canvassing and do an analysis to prove that there were no election irregularities. This legislation is being brought forth in order to show that our elections are safe and to prove they are. Where ever I go in North Dakota there is always the chatter that our elections are not safe. This legislation will go a long way to prove that they are. There is a fiscal note but the peace of mind for numerous North Dakotans would be more than worth it. I have also heard of citizens that don't vote because they don't trust the process. We as legislators can use this opportunity to help restore confidence in the process. The amended version tasks the SOS to do an analysis of an election post canvassing and to do it in a random selection process. To do it in one of the major county populations voting areas and to choose 1000 ballots, hand count and run through machines to verify machines. This can be done at primary or general election and that is also random. I believe this would help alleviate some of the rhetoric going on in voter circles. We need to everything we can to restore confidence in our election process. I am happy to answer any questions from the committee and there is a testifier coming after me that has experience on a local election board and would be able to answer the questions that are out of my arena.

I ask that the committee give this legislation a do pass recommendation

Thank you, Madam Chairman and committee members, for this opportunity. I stand for questions.