Dear Chairman Klein and members of the Committee,

My name is Sandra Larson. I was raised on a farm and ranch in Sheyenne, ND (Chairman Klein's district) and became an environmental engineer who volunteers for Sheyenne GRIT, a community development non-profit. Small towns like mine need NDAs OFF THE TABLE so developers can't bend local officials to their will.

The community development non-profit in New Rockford (also District 14) worked tirelessly on an historic Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) between Eddy County and the Flickertail Wind Project developers, PRC Wind. The entire process, ever since community members came together and formed W/E Wind over a decade ago looking for a developer, has been open and transparent. Public meeting after public meeting. No backroom deals. And the end result will be $13 million of benefits for both New Rockford and Sheyenne and rural landowners over the next 25 years. That's the right way to do things: CBAs and community buy-in.

Let's just say, hypothetically, a developer came in with a secret project, threatened New Rockford's mayor that if they don't rush through the permit process and sign an NDA about the project details to prevent public pushback, they will move the project and give the tax benefits to Sheyenne instead. Sheyenne would be cut out of any benefit. Community members would be enraged. And the mayor of New Rockford would surely lose the next election.

This has happened in North Dakota. If it weren't for the integrity of leaders in Eddy County, it could have just as easily happened in Sheyenne. Don't let it happen again.

Pass SB 2406 and ban NDAs between public officials and industrial developers.

Sincerely,

Sandra Larson
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Sheyenne, ND 58374