

Government & Veteran's Affairs Committee

Date February 3, 2025

By: Cindy Ornsbey- Slope County's Clerk and Recorder

RE: HB 1306: relating to
Open Records requests

Good Morning Chairman Austen Schauer and Committee Members.

For the record I am Cindy Ornsbey, Slope County's Clerk and Recorder. I am writing to you today in opposition to HB 1306 and would appreciate a DO NOT PASS recommendation.

This bill allows for a 40-hour search time free of charge. It is supposed to be an annual number of hours but as Recorders we cannot ask who a person works for, nor can we ask their name. This would allow a company to use several employees and get a multitude of 40 hours of search time at no cost. As a small county with no deputy at the time, 40 hours of free searching would seriously hinder my job.

Also, Recorders in 50 counties use NDRIN (North Dakota Recorders Information Network), which is a web- based search site that people can use with a daily pass or an annual membership. My county's records go from 1996 all the way to present, and other counties go back even further. People or companies can search for as long as they would like for little to no charge in the comfort of their offices or even their recliners.

For these reasons I ask for a DO NOT PASS recommendation on bill number HB1306.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

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