

Good afternoon, chairman Schauer and members of the Government and Veterans affairs committee, my name is Mike Lefor, and I serve District 37 - Dickinson in the House of Representatives. I am here to speak in support of HB 1356. This legislation would give the leaders of each of the four caucuses in the North Dakota legislative assembly to view bill drafts requested by legislative members in their caucus.

This is becoming more important due to the large number of bills being brought forward this session. A leader could look at the totality of the list and reach out to individual legislators to let them know of others who might be working on similar legislation to eliminate duplicative efforts.

Additionally, if there are legislators interested in a certain topic or topics this would give the leader the ability to ask them to work together to put the potential legislation in the best form it can be.

When small groups of legislators work together much as was done in the case of the animal agriculture bill last session, work was done with many agricultural groups to support loosening the ownership laws surrounding animal agriculture. As a result of this legislation, there are two dairy cattle businesses relocating to North Dakota with total herds of 40,000.

This was done on a proactive basis without bill drafts, however, this is an example of the possibility of other groups working together to provide great legislation on a variety of topics.

Finally, I believe this has the potential to promote better teamwork by getting likeminded individuals working together. This is an example of how the legislative branch can go from being reactive in this area to proactive and I think it would provide many exciting opportunities. With that, I ask the committee to consider a "do pass" recommendation on HB 1356. Thank you.