

HB 1141 - In Opposition

January 26, 2025

Chairman and House Industry, Business, and Labor Committee Members,

I have significant concerns regarding HB 1141 and how its consequences will extend throughout numerous industries and communities. Below are my reasons for opposing this proposed bill.

- **This bill would function as Ex Post Facto legislation.** Not only is it morally questionable to punish individuals/groups/organizations for having partook in advocacy efforts in the past, but is also legally dubious. No just legislation would seek to retroactively punish anyone for exercising their right to participate in an activity which was previously legal.
- **The motivation behind this bill appears to be retaliatory in nature due to the widespread opposition to last year's, Measure 4, ballot initiative.** I believe that legislation written in anger or for revenge is not representative of the standards and values that we as North Dakotans hold sacred. Legislation must be for the betterment of citizens, not the silencing of them.
- **Numerous professional organizations will be impacted.** In what modern democracy could the sharing of a Facebook post or the writing of an op-ed, functionally be met with an immediate 10-year sentence without due process? Most cities could no longer support their local Chambers of Commerce, libraries could no longer send staff to NDLA sponsored conferences, and universities could no longer be able to partner with organizations such as the North Dakota Farmers Union, the North Dakota Petroleum Council, and countless other entities.

HB 1141 is unreasonable legislation that seeks to punish law abiding organizations for doing what they were created to do; advocate for the advancement and in the best interest of their members.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dylan Gonser
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