



GREATER NORTH DAKOTA CHAMBER
HB 1141
House Industry Business & Labor Committee
Chair Jonathan Warrey
January 27, 2025

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Arik Spencer, the President and CEO of the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is North Dakota's largest statewide business advocacy organization, with membership represented by small and large businesses, local chambers, and trade and industry associations across the state. We stand in **opposition** to House Bill 1141.

Our concerns with HB 1141 relate primarily to the vagueness of certain terms used in the bill and the potential for unexpected consequences. For example, on page one, line 14, what do the terms contribute and private organization mean? For example, does the term private organization include a newspaper that may be paid to print public notices or a local chamber of commerce that has a contract with the Department of Transportation to offer motor vehicle registrations locally?

We also wonder what contribute means. Does it include a trade association receiving a safety training grant from Workforce Safety and Insurance to provide industry-specific safety training or a local chamber of commerce that receives a regional workforce grant from the Department of Commerce to address their community's specific workforce needs? Even thinking about the Greater North Dakota Chamber, we've received grants from the Secretary of State to educate business owners about their workers' ability to vote during the pandemic. Would this be prohibited?

Further, the 10-year look back in HB 1141 seems unreasonable, as it penalizes private organizations for legal political speech that has taken place in the past rather than setting a clear regulatory structure for transactions and contracts that may be entered into in the future.

For these reasons, we urge a DO NOT PASS on HB 1141.