

Members of the House Industry, Business and Labor,

My name is Scott Heidinger, and I am a life-long resident of North Dakota. I am writing to you to OPPOSE HB 1493.

America has a long history of immigration. The USA has not been called a melting pot because we excluded immigrants. We are a nation of all creeds and colors. The majority of us would not be here if our ancestors had not immigrated to the US mere generations ago. The US was built on the backbone of immigrant labor, and it's safe to say we have a deep history of immigrant labor in this country. It is part of what makes America great. Immigrants add value not only to our nation, but to our state. That is why I am writing to you, to recommend you do NOT PASS HB 1493.

North Dakota has long had issues with retaining and attracting people to work here, both nationally and internationally. Why exclude immigrants from our great state? Not all that long ago, my family immigrated to ND and started a farm. My great grandfather went on to work in John Deere farming implement sales and provided for his family and spent his hard earned money here in the state of ND. I would like to know why we are trying to get rid of an agency that is working to bring families here who are wanting and willing to work jobs we so desperately need filled?

Not only does the Office of Legal Immigration help to attract workers, immigrants also have a positive impact on our economy. Why are we trying to turn good people coming here to work and enrich our economy, away? Why are we trying to get rid of an agency that is working to attract and retain people who would love to be here, and are grateful for the opportunity?

I am firmly opposed to shuttering this Office of Legal Immigration. I ask that you DO NOT PASS HB 1493.

Thank you,

Scott Heidinger

Jamestown, ND