



February 7, 2025

House Political Subdivisions

HB 1469

Representative Donald Longmuir, Chair

For the record, my name is Kory Peterson. I am appearing before you today on behalf of the North Dakota League of Cities, in opposition to HB 1469. Prior to working with the North Dakota League of Cities, I was the Mayor of Horace for 8 years, from June 2016 to July 2024.

The League of Cities has reviewed this bill and while the League is supportive of transparency in government, it has concerns regarding implementation of the requirements along with the logistics surrounding this bill.

While the goal of this bill is to have a yearly statement of interest submitted yearly by elected officials, this will be a departure from current filings. These logistics will involve the auditor or office clerk from the city collecting and submitting these forms to the secretary of state's office. This will be another responsibility bestowed on the auditor or office clerk on a yearly basis.

The concern would be of any online filing. If the person in the office is not comfortable submitting the information online, will there be another acceptable avenue for these forms to be submitted to the secretary of state's office?

We are trying to encourage more participation in local political races within the state. There is concern with more paperwork involved with being an elected official, there may be less participation in local government.

With 344 cities in the state under 1000 in population, the League feels that very few of the forms will change from year to year and believes this may involve spending more money on something that really isn't as big a problem as perceived.

The League appreciates the efforts of wanting to create more transparency in government but feels this bill is not the correct path and recommends a Do NOT Pass on this bill.

Thank you.

Kory Peterson