Testimony on SB 2069 House Political Subdivisions Committee Steve Andrist, Bismarck, ND March 14, 2025

Chairman Longmuir and members of the committee:

Senate Bill 2069, in effect, represents a massive response to a tiny problem, and I hope you will consider opposing it in order to achieve a more proportional and appropriate response.

It is true that newspapers, like everyone else, make occasional mistakes. And often those mistakes need to be corrected. SB 2069 proposes to build out an entirely new feature on the Secretary of State's web site, at significant public expense, when an appropriate method to correct those mistakes, at no public expense, is already in place.

This anticipated web site would be a place where the Public Service Commission could post time-sensitive public notices as a hedge against a newspaper "missing" publication of a notice. The thing is, there already is a statewide public notice website, and state law already requires that public notices be posted to it.

It makes no sense to duplicate this web site, and I respectfully request your "Do Not Pass" vote on 2069.

Thank you for your consideration.