

Senate Appropriations Government Operations Division.

Sen. Terry Wanzek, Chairman SB 2069 -- OPPOSED

## **CHAIRMAN WANZEK AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

My name is Cecile Wehrman, executive director of the North Dakota Newspaper Association (NDNA). We are **OPPOSED** to SB 2069.

SB 2069 seeks to solve a very rare problem with an expensive solution.

NDNA has operated a statewide public notice website since 2013. All newspapers are already required, according to state law, to post all public notices on the website. It is searchable using an interactive map by county and by city (using search terms). There is NO COST to government or consumers.

Failure to publish notices is EXTREMELY rare. For instance, we haven't missed a PSC publication since September 2023. Of 583 administrative rules notices placed last year, only .03 percent had any issue with timing and all were found substantially compliant by the Attorney General.

We have offered a solution to deal with extremely time senstive PSC notices so they have a direct upload at the time hearing notices are placed with newspapers. We urge you to deny an appropriation that would duplicate services already available.

