

Introduction

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill 2398.

Minot and Grand Forks AFB Missions

First, I want to thank you for your continued support of our men and women in the armed forces, as well as your awareness and continued efforts to protect Air Force missions. I am appearing today on behalf of the Department of the Air Force, specifically to address matters that would impact Grand Forks Air Force Base, Minot Air Force Base, and other Air Force installations in North Dakota. As you know, these installations play an important role in our nation's defense. Minot AFB provides critical strategic deterrence and global strike capabilities. Grand Forks AFB operates high altitude surveillance and reconnaissance missions and high frequency global satellite communication systems, which transmit signals globally for senior leaders up to the President of the United States.

Senate Bill 2398

Senate Bill 2398 would protect these missions and reinforce our national security by creating military impact zones surrounding military installations in North Dakota, with a range between five to twenty-five miles. This legislation addresses electromagnetic radio spectrum interference that, if unaddressed, could significantly impair the missions of both Grand Forks and Minot AFB. Specifically, this interference can disrupt critical military operations such as tactical communications, navigation, support to intelligence missions, and sensor systems by causing signal degradation—or even complete signal loss—from overlapping frequencies employed by non-military technologies.

Among other issues, this can compromise situational awareness and mission capabilities of the DoD. This bill would streamline future operations by minimizing potential disputes as well as the need for reactive measures from the Air Force to address avoidable electromagnetic radio spectrum interference. Importantly, this bill would enable the Air Force to more deliberately combat *intentional* interference from our enemies, which has been an increasing threat. Senate Bill 2398 provides clarity to enable the missions of Air Force installations in North Dakota.

Conclusion

To conclude, Senate Bill 2398's creation of military impact zones protects the crucial missions located here in North Dakota and reinforces our national security. The Air Force has always worked closely with the communities we call home. We support this SB 2398 and look forward to the opportunity to work with the Military Impact Commission.

Thank you to the Chairman and members of the Committee for your time.