

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for allowing the privilege to be heard today.

My name is Joe Fouhy and as the General Manager for Farmers Union Oil Company of Beulah & Halliday, I urge a strong no pass on SB 2281 to increase the tax on tobacco products.

Tobacco sales account for a large portion of the sales within our convenience stores. A sin tax such as this is sure to spark a host of unfavorable events such as bootlegging across state and reservation lines as well as force people that are already choosing between nutritional necessities and their addition to nicotine.

The loss of revenue resulting from bootlegging would be a huge negative impact to legitimate business throughout our State.

Again, please recommend a do not pass on SB 2281.

Thank you.