

**Testimony on Senate bill 2304**

**January 28, 2025**

**Sponsor Chuck Walen, Senator D4**

**cwalen@ndlegis.gov**

**701-421-2262**

Chairman Weber and members of the committee

For the record my name is Chuck Walen Senator for District 4

I am here to sponsor and introduce Senate bill 2304 on behalf of several of my constituents.

Senate bill 2304 requests that the State of North Dakota negotiate the 2018 compact to include Allottees and Fee holders of land within the MHA tribal lands. It also requires the tribal government to conduct and submit their annual audits which has not been done since 2018.

For some definitions, there are 3 types of land holders on reservations. 1 are the Tribal lands, 2<sup>nd</sup> Allottees, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fee holders. According to treaties and other agreements, a tribal council only has authority to tax tribal Lands and not Allottee or Fee holder lands.

The reason the state is involved with this situation is we collect and hold the funds from the Oil & gas taxes and distribute them as per agreements and any compacts we have should include all parties in the boundaries of a reservation.

Chairman Weber and members of the committee this concludes my testimony. I stand for any questions you may have