

To: Chair Barta and Members of the Senate Committee on Industry and Business
From: Senator Sean Cleary, District 35 — Bismarck
Date: 1/20/2025
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 2154

Chair Barta and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sean Cleary, and I represent District 35 in the North Dakota Senate. I'm here to introduce and ask for your favorable recommendation of SB 2154.

What this bill does: SB 2154 fixes inconsistencies in how tourism businesses are recognized under North Dakota's primary sector laws and ensures tourism businesses that bring economic activity to the state can access the same incentives as other primary sectors of our economy.

Why this is important: As testimony from the tourism department demonstrates, tourism plays a large role in attracting new dollars and visitors to our state. By clarifying these definitions in our laws, we can ensure the tourism industry is treated consistently under our state law.

Additional Background: Many of North Dakota's economic development incentives are designed for primary sector businesses. These require certification as a primary sector by the state. For tourism projects, there are clear requirements for organizations to demonstrate their value and viability.

Conclusion: SB 2154 brings consistency to our state's law surrounding tourism as a primary sector part of our economy and positions us to be successful in supporting our tourism industry.

I respectfully encourage a "**Do Pass**" recommendation and am grateful for your consideration. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Sean Cleary
State Senator
District 35 -- Bismarck
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