

Good morning, Chairman Barta and members of the Senate Industry and Business Committee,

For the record, my name is Senator Ryan Braunberger, and I represent Fargo's District 10. This bill addresses a straightforward but essential issue: the implementation of reasonable late fees for rental payments under a rental agreement. It seeks to amend section 47-16-20 of the North Dakota Century Code to provide clarity and balance in rental agreements between lessors and lessees.

There is no specific provision in our state law addressing late fees for overdue rent payments. Senate Bill 2236 proposes a clear framework, allowing landlords to charge late fees not exceeding 8% of the overdue rent if payments are not made on time. By establishing this cap, the bill ensures fairness and prevents excessive penalties while also recognizing the financial implications that delayed payments can have on landlords.

This legislation fosters transparency and promotes responsible financial practices in rental agreements. It also aligns North Dakota with standard practices in many other states, ensuring our rental market operates efficiently and equitably.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I will stand for your questions.