

GREATER NORTH DAKOTA CHAMBER
SB 2380
Senate Industry & Business Committee
Chair Jeff Barta
Feb. 10, 2025

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Arik Spencer, and I am the President and CEO of the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is North Dakota's largest statewide business advocacy organization, with membership represented by small and large businesses, local chambers, and trade and industry associations across the state. GNDC is also the state affiliate for the National Association of Manufacturers. We stand in **opposition** to Senate Bill 2380.

GNDC's opposition to SB 2380 is based upon the overly burdensome requirements this bill imposes on all technology manufacturers to age-verify any user in real-time, regardless of whether the user is accessing mature content.

We are concerned the term "device" is overly broad as the sheer number of manufactured electronics covered by that definition is immense and includes vehicles, appliances, watches, glasses, security systems, and many other manufactured goods beyond computers and phones.

In addition, the term "commercially reasonable and technically feasible" is not defined, opening manufacturers up to unneeded legal liabilities and steep fines. This language may be especially problematic for small technology manufacturers and entrepreneurs who don't have the business scale or technical expertise to offer real-time age verification, which could be especially harmful to ND-based technology developers and manufacturers.

Finally, GNDC is concerned about the impact of user-generated content, which may be considered "mature" on E-commerce sites, digital marketplaces, fitness/wellness platforms, and discussion forums that could expose a covered manufacturer to a \$10,000 fine per occurrence.

Ultimately, SB 2380 creates significant regulatory and financial burdens on businesses, threatens innovation and investment, and fails to protect minors in the digital space effectively. While we appreciate the goal of the sponsors, GNDC strongly urges lawmakers to reject SB 2380 in favor of business-friendly, practical solutions such as HB 1561 that empower parents and consumers without stifling economic growth.

