



January 15, 2025

Honorable Diane Larson  
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee  
Peace Garden Room  
600 East Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505

**RE: Senate Bill 2127 - Uniform Electronic Estate Planning Documents Act (Judiciary Committee)**

My name is Cody Barbo, and I am the CEO and co-founder of Trust & Will, a company founded in 2017 with a mission to modernize and democratize the estate planning process. Trust & Will serves families across the nation, including those in North Dakota. Our platform is particularly valuable for individuals in rural areas and legal deserts, where access to estate planning attorneys is limited. By offering accessible, affordable, and user-friendly solutions, we empower North Dakota residents to take control of their futures and protect their loved ones.

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 2127, the Uniform Estate Planning Documents Act (UEEPDA). This forward-thinking legislation explicitly authorizes the use of electronic documents and electronic signatures for non-testamentary estate planning documents, including trusts, health care directives, durable powers of attorney, and more. Senate Bill 2127 addresses a critical gap in North Dakota's existing laws. It represents the logical next step following the state's adoption of the Uniform Electronic Wills Act in 2021, which enables the electronic execution of wills.

The Uniform Law Commission adopted UEEPDA in July 2022, and it has already been enacted in four states—Oklahoma, Colorado, Washington, and Illinois. The legislation is currently pending in Missouri and was introduced in Texas, signaling growing national recognition of the need for modernization in estate planning.

Senate Bill 2127 simplifies and streamlines the estate planning process by increasing accessibility for North Dakotans, especially those in rural and underserved areas. Just as North Dakotans can conduct banking transactions or designate beneficiaries online, they should also be able to appoint an agent under a power of attorney or create a trust with the same convenience and security. This legislation ensures that modern-day technology meets the evolving needs of North Dakotans.

Importantly, Senate Bill 2127 also addresses a pressing issue: that only 1/3 of Americans today have an estate plan. Without access to this critical service, families face unnecessary legal and financial hardships, and probate courts are burdened with avoidable guardianship proceedings. By enabling the creation and execution of these documents online, the bill will reduce these challenges, save families



and the state time and money, and ensure North Dakotan's wishes are fulfilled while easing the workload on the courts.

Senate Bill 2127 is a practical, incremental step toward modernizing estate planning in North Dakota. It will ensure that residents have greater access to the tools they need to protect themselves and their families.

I strongly urge the Committee to support Senate Bill 2127. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this essential legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cody Barbo". The signature is written in a cursive style. A small, light blue rectangular stamp is visible over the signature, containing the text "Cody Barbo" and "CEO &amp; Co-Founder, Trust &amp; Will".

Cody Barbo  
CEO & Co-Founder, Trust & Will

cc: Vice-Chair, Bob Paulson  
Senator Ryan Braunberger  
Senator Jose L. Castaneda  
Senator Claire Cory  
Senator Larry Luick  
Senator Janne Myrdal  
Chief Information Officer, Corey Mock

# Electronic Record of Contracts

This document was generated as a record of certain contracts created, accepted and stored electronically.



## Summary of Contracts

This document contains the following contracts.

Title	ID
Other (Senate Judiciary Committee and Trust & Will)	16b51714-43a4-4bca-ab62-7c0f2095624f

## Contract signed by:

<b>Cody Barbo</b>	Signer ID: e0dbbd5e-d855-4de5-a650-0a12453410d2
	Email: cody@trustandwill.com
Date / Time:	Jan 13, 2025 at 4:17 PM EST
IP Address:	104.14.119.80
User Agent:	Mozilla/5.0 (iPhone; CPU iPhone OS 18_2_1 like Mac OS X) AppleWebKit/605.1.15 (KHTML, like Gecko) Version/18.2 Mobile/15E148 Safari/604.1