

February 11, 2025

Written Testimony to the North Dakota Senate Judiciary Committee in Favor of SB 2364: UCC Article 8

Chairwoman Larson and Members of the Committee,

I am grateful for this opportunity to testify **in support** of Senate Bill 2364.

For the record, my name is Paul Letvin, and I am providing this testimony as a private citizen of North Dakota. I was raised in this state from the time I was five years old and have enjoyed the freedoms of North Dakota since then. My education includes a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from the University of North Dakota, as well as ten years of intense training in private education through the Great Commission Leadership Institute and Heart and Character Development of Great Commission Churches. I taught music for seven years between Thompson and Grand Forks, and now I have been a pastor for well over ten years at Submerge Church, located in West Fargo, ND.

What does a pastor know about property and financial assets, and why would he care about this bill? Well for one, I have an incredible family, a faithful wife and six young children, and I want to know that they and their children have a prosperous future long after I am gone. Proverbs 13:22 says, *“A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the sinner's wealth is laid up for the righteous.”*

Secondly, as a Christian and pastor, I am called to be a good steward of all that God has entrusted me with, including property and assets. 1 Corinthians 4:2 says, *“Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.”* If I know about a situation where I might not actually own what I think I own and do nothing about it, then I'm not being a good steward.

Thirdly, the Bible commands us to walk as children of light. That means that there should be honesty and transparency in all our dealings, both public and private. If there are flaws, or even intentional deceptions, in our current financial system, then they need to be exposed and corrected. They need to be brought to the light. Ephesians 5:11 tells us, *“Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.”*

I praise God for men like David Rogers Webb, who in his book, *The Great Taking*, has had the courage to expose some matters of great concern regarding our current financial system. I have great hope that SB 2364 will be a step in the right direction to make some needed corrections in North Dakota.

Finally, our own printed and coined currency that we use and accept for monetary transactions in the United States, including North Dakota, bears the words, “IN GOD WE TRUST.” As that is the case, ought we not take heed of what God says regarding property

and ownership? If we truly trust God, as our currency says we do, then we should believe and follow what He says as it applies to all of life, including our financial dealings. I will let God's Word speak for itself on this important matter:

Exodus 20:15 - "You shall not steal."

Leviticus 19:11 - "You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another."

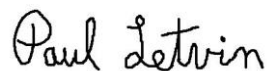
Deuteronomy 19:14 - "You shall not move your neighbor's landmark, which the men of old have set, in the inheritance that you will hold in the land that the LORD your God is giving you to possess."

Micah 2:1-3 - "Woe to those who devise wickedness and work evil on their beds!
When the morning dawns, they perform it, because it is in the power of their hand.
2 They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them away;
they oppress a man and his house, a man and his inheritance.
3 Therefore thus says the LORD:
behold, against this family I am devising disaster, from which you cannot remove your necks, and you shall not walk haughtily, for it will be a time of disaster."

Luke 11:21 - "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are undisturbed."

I want North Dakota to be "fully armed" in protecting all that the Lord has entrusted to us. I respectfully urge the committee to give Senate Bill 2364 a "**Do Pass**" recommendation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Humbly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Letvin".

Paul Letvin
Pastor and North Dakota Citizen