

Chairman Patten and Members of the Committee;

SB 2168 should get a DO NOT PASS recommendation from the Committee because it is a direct assault on the rights of all property owners-public and private. SB 2168 would prohibit landowners/operators from hunting on land which they control, without permission from neighboring landowners. It would prohibit hunting on large amounts of public land that are specifically in place for public recreation. It would prohibit hunters from hunting on private land where they have permission.

A little background:

This bill came about because last fall Kenny Graner allegedly found a bullet hole in a bin or building on his property near Oahe Game Management Area/Graner Bottoms. Making the assumption that it was hunter, Graner then went on the WMA and placed posted signs (an illegal action) "prohibiting shooting" within 440 yards of his yard. Graner's illegal actions were reported to law enforcement and the signs were removed. Graner then approached one of the bill's Senate sponsors regarding the proposed bill.

This bill would create a chaotic situation for law enforcement, as there would undoubtedly be numerous complaints, many probably coming from folks who would be unaware of the change.

It would further restrict land access by both private and public parties. We all know that neighbors don't always get along. For instance; if I don't like my neighbor, I can simply put up a small structure near the property line and deny permission (if asked).

SB 2168 is a horrible bill that by design, would comprise private landowner rights to use their own property and limit hunting access to thousands of acres of public land. SB 2168 should receive a DO NOT PASS recommendation from the committee.

Your time and consideration are appreciated.

Mark Mazaheri
2709 10th St. N.
Fargo, ND
701-799-2525