

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Testimony on SB 2168 (IN OPPOSITION)

Kurt Swenson, Beulah, ND District 33

Chairman Patten, Vice Chairman Kessel and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Kurt Swenson from Beulah. I am an avid outdoorsman, enjoying the pursuit of game that North Dakota offers us on our own property and that of neighbors and friends.

Each year we put great effort into developing and restoring wildlife habitat on our land, we host hunts for youth pheasant opener, veterans' appreciation hunts and give permission to a significant number of hunters each year to enjoy our beautiful land it's bounty.

SB 2168 is a very concerning bill that is a direct, frontal assault on our private property rights, enshrined in the US and North Dakota constitutions.

Using the state's Police Powers should be exercised with great caution when restricting the use and enjoyment of our private property. That use and enjoyment should never rely on a neighboring landowner to "grant permission" for us to utilize our own land for the pursuit of game as this bill proposes.

The landowner that builds a structure near a property line accepts the reality that their neighbors have property rights as well, which include hunting.

There are plenty of laws on the books that already protect landowners and their structures which don't impact my property rights. We don't need to restrict our freedoms any further.

I respectfully ask you to vote DO NOT PASS vote on SB 2168.