

Dear North Dakota Senators,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 2208.

Testimony in Opposition to SB 2208

SB 2208 represents a dangerous overreach, stripping local governments of their authority, coercing communities through financial threats, and prioritizing corporate interests over the well-being of North Dakota's rural families.

My partner's great-grandfather purchased our family's land in 1905. Through decades of hardship, sacrifice, and relentless work, each generation has fought to keep this land in the family. Now, corporate interests—enabled by our own state legislature—threaten to take it away. SB 2208 forces local governments into compliance by withholding critical state funding, effectively silencing the people who have lived on and cared for this land for generations.

SB 2208: Coercion Through Financial Threats

This bill forces cities, townships, and counties to approve energy projects by threatening to withhold essential state grant funding.

- **Stripping Local Authority** – Local governments exist to represent their residents. SB 2208 pressures them into compliance, disregarding community concerns.
- **Unfair Financial Punishment** – State grants fund infrastructure, emergency services, and community programs. Withholding them as leverage is coercive and harmful.
- **Prioritizing Special Interests** – The bill forces local governments to approve projects without the ability to assess economic and environmental impacts.
- **A Slippery Slope** – If the state can withhold funding to force compliance now, what will they demand next?

The Human Toll on North Dakota's Farmers

Farmers pour their blood, sweat, and tears into their land. Watching it be taken away by corporations—with the backing of state lawmakers—will have devastating effects on their mental health. According to the CDC, agricultural workers already have one of the highest suicide rates in the U.S. What will happen when generations of sacrifice are erased by the stroke of a pen?

Take a Stand for North Dakota's Landowners

What is happening is unjust. Landowners are being pushed aside, their concerns ignored. I urge you to take a stand. Vote NO on SB 2208. Protect the land, livelihoods, and legacies of North Dakota's farmers and rural communities. Please feel free to reach out for further discussion.

Sincerely,

Brittany Fleck
District 28
Edgeley, ND