

SB 2208: The "Blackmailing Local Government" Act

SB 2208 appears to be a vindictive and retaliatory bill seeking to blackmail local government into not exercising local control.



DUSTIN GAWRYLOW
JAN 15, 2025 · PAID



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Citizens: To contact your legislators about the following bill [click here](#).

Elected Officials: If you do not want your hands to be tied on this or any other issue, please contact the sponsors of this bill. Here are their email addresses: dpatten@ndlegis.gov, bbekkedahl@ndlegis.gov, mbrandenburg@ndlegis.gov, rerbele@ndlegis.gov, tkporter@ndlegis.gov

What do citizens do when their state elected officials want to tie the hands of their local elected officials?

That is the dilemma that citizens, their legislators, and their local government officials will have to wrestle with when discussing [Senate Bill 2208](#).

[Senate Bill 2208](#) is a rather simple and devious bill.

It states that if a city, county or township: “adopts an ordinance or policy that interferes or conflicts with an energy infrastructure project permitted or approved by a state agency, the city is not eligible to receive any grants from the fund beginning on the later of the date on which the city adopted the ordinance or policy, or the date on which the state agency permits or approves the project.”

If a city adopts an ordinance or policy that interferes or conflicts with an energy infrastructure project permitted or approved by a state agency, the city is not eligible to receive any grants from the fund beginning on the later of the date on which the city adopted the ordinance or policy, or the date on which the state agency permits or approves the project.

requirements.

- c. If a county or township adopts an ordinance or policy that interferes or conflicts with an energy infrastructure project permitted or approved by a state agency, the county or township is not eligible to receive any grants from the fund beginning

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on the later of the date on which the city adopted the ordinance or policy, or the date on which the state agency permits or approves the project.



It is pretty obvious what this bill is trying to do.

It is trying to blackmail cities, counties, and townships to with the threat of withholding state funding from the “municipal infrastructure fund and the county

and township infrastructure fund” if they dare to oppose projects that the state of North Dakota wants to see happen.

The two things that local government have been opposing at the behest of their voting citizens are wind farms, the Summit Carbon Solutions CO2 pipeline, and other “green” projects.

On wind farms, several counties have pushed back on development:

- In 2019, [Mercer and McLean counties pass moratoriums.](#)
- In 2019, [Burleigh and Emmons counties took up the issue.](#)
- In 2021, [Stark County transitioned between moratoriums.](#)
- In 2023, [Grand Forks County passed a 90-day moratorium.](#)

Ironically, at one point, [some legislators wanted to try to tax wind power and the federal subsidies that subsidize it.](#)

Beyond wind farms, in 2021, [the Coal Conversion Counties Association objected to the hydrogen project that was intended to take over the DGC Coal Gasification plant at Beulah.](#)

Coal Counties Protest Proposed Hydrogen Project, But Were Silent During Legislative Session

DUSTIN GAWRYLOW • DECEMBER 12, 2021

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And of course, the elephant in the room is the Summit Carbon Solutions CO2 pipeline - which both Emmons and Burleigh County, as well as the City of Bismarck, have taken strong actions to protect their citizens from just in case there is a catastrophic problem.



North Dakota Energy Council

Burleigh County Adopts Zoning Ordinance Attempting To Protect Residents From Carbon Pipeline Project

Originally posted by the North Dakota Watchdog Network on March 22nd, 2023...

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North Dakota Energy Council

Bismarck City Commission Votes 5-0 To Urge PSC To Move CO2 Pipeline Route

In a big victory for rural-Bismarck residents and developers, the Bismarck City Commission has decided to back up the Burleigh County Commission's work to defend its citizens from the impending carbon dioxide pipeline boondoggle currently planned to be routed just outside of Bismarck's current Extra-Territorial Zone...

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This situation is still not over, as Burleigh County is pursuing appeals the PSC decision.



North Dakota Energy Council

Breaking News: Burleigh County Commission Votes To Stand Up Against PSC And Summit

Last month, the North Dakota Public Service Commission approved the permit for the Summit Carbon Solutions CO2 pipeline...

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Senate Bill 2208, as introduced by [Sen. Patten](#), [Sen. Bekkedahl](#), [Rep. Brandenburg](#), [Sen. Erbele](#), [Sen. Kessel](#), [Rep. Porter](#), would seek to muzzle local elected officials attempting to stand up for and advocate for their citizens.

By withholding state funds, [this bill would put the State of North Dakota in the same category as the federal government when it comes to blackmailing lower levels of government with funding.](#)

None of this is shocking, since the state is spending \$300,000 on a plan to re-educate the public on the CO2 agenda.



North Dakota Energy Council

NDIC Receives CO2 Re-Education Report

This afternoon, the North Dakota Industrial Commission will receive a report on the re-education effort to convince North Dakotans on the need to change their minds on the CO2 Agenda...

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The sponsors of this bill should consider withdrawing it from consideration.

To send a message to the sponsors encouraging them to do so, cut and paste the following email addresses and send them a message directly:

dpatten@ndlegis.gov, bbekkedahl@ndlegis.gov, mbrandenburg@ndlegis.gov,
rerbele@ndlegis.gov, tkporter@ndlegis.gov

Senate 2208 is a massive overreach and a power-grab. If it is passed, it is the type of bill that citizens should consider referring to the voters.



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