

## Testimony in opposition to SB2208

Dear Senators,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 2208. As a landowner in LaMoure and Dickey Counties, it makes me sad and upset to see what is happening to our community. Our legislators are introducing and supporting bills benefiting corporate interests instead of watching out for the people they represent. It is unfortunate that landowner's legitimate concerns are completely disregarded. It is wrong and unjust.

We, the residents who live and work here, pay taxes, who attend church, send our kids to school, shop and support local businesses, sit on township boards, etc., have a vested interest in how our communities should be run. This bill forces counties, townships and cities by threatening to withhold critical state grant funding. Our townships struggle enough as it is, so blackmailing them does not bode well for anyone.

SB 2208 is an unjustifiable attack on local autonomy and a blatant attempt to force communities into submission for the benefit of corporate interests. Legislators must reject this bill and instead support policies that promote responsible energy development while preserving the right of local governments to serve their residents without fear of financial retaliation.

I ask that you take a moment and envision what YOU want the future of our state to look like.

I urge you to reject SB 2208 and recommend a **DO NOT PASS** vote.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Richard Long, Berlin, ND