

SB 2208 - Testimony by Dustin Gawrylow, ND Watchdog Network (#266)

Mr. Chairman,

Senate Bill 2208 is one of the most blatantly vindictive bills I've seen be proposed by legislators in my 10th legislative session of lobbying.

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

The legislature should reject this power grab and seek ways to empower local governments to better represent their constituents, not silence them based on threats of defunding based on policy disagreements.

North Dakota does not like it when the Federal Government acts this way, and it should not act this way towards local government.

Furthermore, legislators should seek to represent the interests of their local elected officials, not fight against them, and propose laws that would muzzle them and prevent them from representing their constituents.

Thank you for your time.