

Dear Senators,

I hope this letter finds you well and in good spirits. I'd like to thank you for your service and for taking the time away from your families to represent your communities and make sound, ethical, and fair laws.

I'm writing today in opposition of Bill 2208. It is quite clear that it is a bill written and proposed by a large entity trying to quietly and forcibly retaliate against the landowners and communities that are resistant to their proposed transmission line route. I believe these entities and landowners are capable of negotiating in the free market with the oversight of the local government.

My wife and I have learned, over the past 10 years of growing our feed manufacturing and distribution companies to multiple locations, that one set of rules does not always pertain to multiple locations. We have to rely on our location managers to produce and facilitate rules and procedures that are effective in their respective region. Just as the public service commission does for the state of North Dakota in the matter of overseeing routes of transmission lines and pipelines. My wife and I have learned it's best to oversee the rules and procedures our local leaders make and support them in implementing them in a fair and productive manner. I see no need to threaten our local governments with lack of funding to appease a large entity in their quest for profit. If an idea is profitable and sound, capitalism will prove it to be so without any help from the government.

I ask you to remember three things when voting:

1. You represent land owners and local government at a state level, not control or supremely rule over them.
2. Capitalism is the truest measure of feasibility (if it's truly beneficial and profitable they'll find a route that works).
3. The difference between 500' and 1,500' is much more detrimental to tax-paying homeowners like myself than a large entity trying to increase its market share.

Thank you again for your service,

Ben Mickelson
Jamestown, ND