

SENATE BILL NO. 2208

Representatives of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

There is a lot to this bill that potentially benefits every citizen of our great state of North Dakota, and I would encourage you to adopt it accordingly with the exception of the sections copy and pasted below:

Page 2: Line 8 through 12

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

Page 5: Line 28 through 30 and Page 6: Line 1 and 2

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 Page No. 5 25.1104.01000 1 Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly 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.

This is a power grab and a slap in the face to every citizen of North Dakota when it will apply to them. We all pledge allegiance to the Republic for which we stand, and we have a government based on checks and balances. For that to happen we allow space for disagreement, civil discourse, and negotiation. Mandates, ultimatums, and strong arm leverage lead government in a bad direction that is not representative of a nation that holds the banner for "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness".

Robbing people of their own money resources is a sure sign that any level of our government should not be trusted with it to begin with. We just got done seeing to much of the from the Biden administration with business shutdowns, vaccine mandates, and mask mandates. Five years later we are still not in a better place, and who knows if we get it back.

Having the above two areas in this bill is “**playing dirty pool**” as the state elevates their right to represent the citizens as they take away the rights of citizens to be represented at a local level. Why have elected officials at all if they are not allowed to represent?

I must have grown up differently than the individuals adding in such language when I was instructed to take the high road and state things in a way that held a high standard. I did not need to covet what opposition to be brought to the table by manipulating rules to give my side all it needed to win a desire every time. This is gross, and benefits a few at the legalized thievery of other citizens of potentially their rights and their land, whilst using a restriction of their own money to strangle them out of their choice to live in communities where local government is addressing their needs.

Prove you represent all citizens in North Dakota by passing SB2208 after removing the following language:

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Have a Blessed Day,

Mike Connelly (701-400-1839)

Bismarck Citizen sharing my own views on this bill and all testimony is not an official statement for the city of Bismarck. For official positions of the city of Bismarck you may contact the Mayor of Bismarck or the City Administrator.