

Written Testimony for the
Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee
February 11, 2025
Jaden Schmidt, Oliver County Auditor/Planning & Zoning and County Resident

RE: OPPOSITION to SB 2208

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Jaden Schmidt, Oliver County Auditor, Planning & Zoning and a resident of Oliver County where I farm and ranch alongside my husband. I would like to express my opposition of Senate Bill 2208.

As an official elected to local government as well as a resident in a county that has become the heart of many energy infrastructure projects, I find the wording of SB 2208 to be very broad and open for interpretation in a variety of ways. There is no wording that spells out what type of energy infrastructure or interference means.

This bill takes away the ability of the local government, and moreover removes the rights of the citizens that live in these cities and counties, to have a say in what they want or do not want in their backyard. Local governments are in place to be a voice for the citizens that live there and are crucial to address the needs of those citizens.

The people working for these local governments also live in these areas and understand the needs and concerns of the area much better than the state government. Penalizing the cities and counties and therefore the people that live there for adopting ordinances that are put in place to protect these people is a gross overreach of state government. The local and state governments should be able to work together to find ideal solutions

It is disheartening to see legislators acting in the best interests of corporate entities, many of whom are only coming to North Dakota due to federal government tax incentives, rather than acting for the people they were elected to represent.

It is high time we stop catering to the almighty dollar and start listening to the people that live in these areas that will be the most affected by these projects, as they know the land there better than anyone else.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I urge a DO NOT PASS on SB 2208.