

Good afternoon Committee chairman, members of the board.

Craig Miller, Emmons County Commission. Why I came to North Dakota.

My wife and I moved to North Dakota almost twenty years ago. We bought a dairy farm to continue our operation. We moved here for the clean air and rural lifestyle we both love. We love this state and our local community. That is why I became a county commissioner.

S.B 2208 is bad legislation. It takes away local control. It goes against the Century Code of North Dakota. Century Code 11:33 states that commissioners have the responsibility of keeping our residents safe. "For the purpose of promoting health, safety, morals, public convenience, general prosperity and public welfare." It also states "the location and use of buildings and structures and the use, condition of use, or occupancy of lands for residents, recreation and other purposes."

11-33-03 Object of regulations.

These regulations shall be made in accordance with a comprehensive plan and designed for any or all of the following purposes:

1. To protect and guide the development of non-urban areas.
2. To provide for emergency management. "Emergency Management" means a comprehensive integrated system at all levels of government and in the private sector which provides for the development and maintenance of an effective capability to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from known and unforeseen hazards or situations, caused by an act of nature or man, which may threaten, injure, damage, or destroy lives, property, or our environment.
3. To regulate and restrict the erection, construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair, or use of buildings and structures, the height, number of stories, and the size of buildings and structures, the percentage of lot that may be occupied, the size of courts, yards, and other open spaces, the density of population, and the location and use of buildings structures, and land for trade, industry, residence, or other purposes.
4. To lessen governmental expenditures.
5. To conserve and develop natural resources.

These regulations shall be made with a reasonable consideration, among other things, to the character of the district and its peculiar suitability for particular uses. The comprehensive plan shall be a statement in documented text setting forth explicit goals, objectives, policies, and standards of the jurisdiction to guide public and private development within its control.

At the PSC hearing, Chairman Christman stated that the PSC does not have the authority to control safety. Well then, who does? It's the county! As stated by the century code, which you just heard.

S.B 2208 is a power grab for out of state interest. The sponsor of this bill are not looking out for the safety of North Dakota, they are turning North Dakota into an industrial dumping ground and turning our landscape into an eye sore, at the expense of our residents safety!

So in closing, I would ask that you carefully consider the choice you have before you. A safe North Dakota, or a dangerous eyesore!

"The sheep live in fear of the wolf, only to be eaten by the shepherd"