

Testimony of Troy Coons on behalf of
Northwest Landowners Association
in opposition to
SENATE BILL NO. 2208
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
February 13, 2025

Chairman Patten and members of the committee, thank you for taking my testimony into consideration today.

My name is Troy Coons and I am the Chairman of the Northwest Landowners Association. Northwest Landowners Association represents hundreds of farmers, ranchers, and property owners in North Dakota. Northwest Landowners Association is a nonprofit organization, and I am not a paid lobbyist.

This bill is not exactly a property rights or landowner issue. But we feel compelled to speak against it because our members look to their local governments as their most direct and responsive form of government. Members of our board have often been local township officers or have served in their local governments in other ways. We support local government and believe that the government that is closest to the people knows the people best.

This bill seems like it is intended to punish local governments by removing their ability to get grant funding for serious infrastructure. We would rather see energy infrastructure promoted in other ways that do not potentially put our local governments at risk. If our local community leaders pass an ordinance in response to concerns from their citizens, that shouldn't put them at risk of losing critical infrastructure funding because someone decides it interfered with an energy infrastructure project. There must be better ways to promote energy infrastructure with less risk to our local communities and their community leaders.

We ask you to vote DO NO PASS on SB 2208.

Thank you,

Troy Coons
Northwest Landowners Association