

Dear Committee Members of House Government & Veterans Affairs,

I had the unique opportunity to support a Candidate of District 8 as Campaign Advisor during the election year of 2020.

We worked very hard as a team to get hundreds of people to the District 8 Endorsement meeting and won the endorsement of the people without the support of the Governor. We knocked on doors and called the people and were warmly welcomed and offered support.

Then the 1.8 million dollars donated by the Governor in an effort to buy these 2 House seats in District 8 kicked in. I firmly believe the candidate I worked with did not realize what was to come.

As 4 large glossy postcards filled my mailbox every few days, the candidate I worked with would cringe in embarrassment. I have texts and messages stating the embarrassment and how this candidate could not wait until it was over. Numerous calls and messages came in from constituents in dismay at the massive amount of money put up to buy the seats in District 8.

I watched the physical deterioration of the candidate I represented as the stress of feeling bought overwhelmed this person.

Many people witnessed the chaos and division this donation by the Governor brought to District 8.

We the people do not want the Governor blurring the lines between the Legislative Assembly and the Executive Branch. We do not want billionaires buying Legislative seats and we want our Representatives to vote according to how their constituents want, not because of pressure to vote a certain way because of financial backing by the Executive Branch.

We want a fair election and for regular citizens not to feel intimidated in running for a seat to represent we the people. How can normal folks feel inspired to run to represent the people when the potential is there for the Governor to throw millions at an opponent.

I wholeheartedly appreciate the support of the committee members in the passing of this bill and I appreciate the work of the Legislators on the writing and support of HB1256.

Sincerely,

Bea Streifel

District 8

Burleigh County Planning and Zoning Commissioner

Bismarck ND resident for over 30 years