

Senators;

I, Paul Finneman former owner of Cascade Pure Water Inc for 19 years am giving testimony in support of senate bill SB2252. I owned and operated a reverse osmosis water vending business where I installed and serviced water machines in stores in North and South Dakota and Montana. I also did contract work for Culligan and Primo Water where I installed and serviced the water machines in five Walmart stores in North Dakota.

The water machines use a process of reverse osmosis which removes a high percentage of solids in the water such as sodium, lead, iron etc. It also uses carbon filtration that removes any taste, odor and all or a high percentage of chemicals in the water such as chlorine or chloramines. Customers buy this RO water for many different reasons it may be that they shouldn't drink water with sodium (high blood pressure), for their baby or they are allergic to chlorine or chloramines, coffee, drinking water without any chemicals etc.

I believe there should be some regulation or oversight that the consumer is getting the water that is being advertised. I have heard numerous complaints from consumers across the state regarding the poor quality of water from water machines in some stores. One person who is allergic to chlorine told me that she ended up in the hospital twice before they figured out it was from the reverse osmosis water she was getting from a grocery store in Williston. She asked me if I owned that machine which I didn't but I told her I had previously tested that water from that store and it was high in chlorine. This is just one instance of many I have seen over the years.

Over the years I have seen some of these machines in the stores where they used brass, and galvanized fittings (plastic or stainless steel fittings to be used only with RO water), UV lamps (sterilizes the water) that have a rating of one gallon a minute and should have had a rating of five gallons a minute or higher. I have tested the water in a lot of stores across North Dakota and a significant number have had high chlorine levels. Some had chlorine or chloride levels the same as the city water.

It has been obvious to me that some of the owners of these machines have neglected or knowingly not put the money into filters, carbon, membranes, UV lights etc leaving the customer with poor quality and some times water that can cause health issues.

Thank you,