

Chairman Burckhard and Members of the Senate Political Subdivisions Committee:

Good morning! For the record I am David Rust, Senator from District 2 which encompasses all of Divide and Burke Counties, Williams County with the exception of most of Williston, and parts of Mountrail County, including the city of Stanley.

I am here today to introduce SB 2285.

I am doing this at the request of a constituent from Stanley. The bill consists of only one sentence and deals with the "Payment of fees."

It states: "A fee charged for surface entry on an easement must be charged to the person owning the easement."

The constituent was planning to either be here today or join us through video. However, due to a medical emergency he is unable to do that.

The information I have is that upon updating an abstract, he was asked if he'd like to take care of another one. He said "No, I haven't done anything to that abstract that needs an updating." He was informed that updates had been done with regards to an easement and that he owed money for those updates. He was shocked that was the case.

He couldn't understand why he should have been charged for updates that he had not authorized. His call to me was to propose a bill that prevented that from happening.

Rep. Longmuir is here today. He may be able to answer questions you might have. The request originally came to Rep. Longmuir but the time had passed for House bills to be introduced. Hence, the reason for me introducing SB 2285.