



North Dakota Senate

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Senator Jeff Barta

District 43
815 South 21st Street
Grand Forks, ND 58201-4135

C: 701-741-5906

jbarta@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:
Industry and Business
State and Local Government

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Chairman Warrey, Vice-chairs Ostlie & Johnson, and members of the House Industry, Business & Labor Committee, my name is Jeff Barta, and I am the Senator from District 43, representing the west-central portion of Grand Forks. I stand before you to introduce SB2204, a bill relating to the required disclosure of radon hazards by a seller. Similar bills have been introduced in previous legislative sessions but have failed to pass in both chambers. This is not a mandate to perform testing or to perform any mitigation. The purpose of the bill is twofold; to disclose known findings and to educate buyers of residential property that radon has been found in North Dakota homes and that exposure to radon may produce health risks.

A constituent, who just happens to be an oncologist, first approached me about a potential bill shortly after the last legislative session. He shared with me the prevalence of radon in North Dakota, especially in the Red River Valley. Radon is second behind cigarette smoking as a cause of lung cancer and accounts for more than 21,000 deaths per year from lung cancer. The UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences has established a program called Radon Outreach and Research or ROAR, with a goal "to improve health through informing the public of radon risks, providing access to radon detection resources, and conducting innovative radon research." They have an excellent webpage with a great deal of information that I encourage you to view, as well as to share with friends and family. The following link will take you to their page [Radon Outreach And Research \(ROAR\) | University of North Dakota](#) or you may type <https://und.edu/research/soar.html> into your browser to navigate to the page. The people to follow me are the experts and will provide much greater details on radon, its prevalence and the health risks associated with exposure to radon.

I would like to add that the proponents of this bill have worked hard to gain consensus on this bill through conversations with the realtors. The language of the bill was produced with their input to ensure that their concerns were addressed. As a result, they have been neutral on the bill. SB2204 passed unanimously in the Senate, and I ask you show that same level of support here on the House side.

That concludes my testimony, and I will stand for any questions you may have. Thank you.