



North Dakota Retail Association
ND Petroleum Marketers Association
North Dakota Propane Gas Association

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

Testimony SB 2257

March 11, 2025-House Judiciary Committee

Chairman Klemin and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

For the record, my name is Mike Rud. I serve as President of the North Dakota Retail Association. NDRA's membership stands in strong support of SB 2257 and urges a DO PASS recommendation.

SB 2257 continues to clamp down on repeat retail theft offenders by closing any potential cracks in NDCC. **The threat of the Class C felony is what gives this portion of the NDCC its teeth.**

No one has the right to steal your retail property over and over without facing serious consequences for those actions. Over the years, the frustration of ND retailers has reached a boiling point while watching the same criminals come back into their stores time after time, simply because the dollar amount of the theft didn't exceed \$500.

In 2021, working in conjunction with former ND Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem and a large group of concerned legislators, we successfully passed SB 2166. This bill was designed to put some serious teeth into retail theft. Specifically, the language was aimed at cracking down on repeat offenders.

This is a serious issue. The punishment must fit the crime when it comes to repeat retail thefts. **The threat of the Class C felony is the key deterrent.** SB 2257 helps tighten those handcuffs.

Again, NDRA urges a DO PASS recommendation on SB 2257.