

Opposition Testimony – HB 1429

My name is Ben Kappel, and I am a Realtor from Mandan, ND. I respectfully ask for the removal of page 2, lines 5 and 6 from HB 1429, or just a do not pass.

Real estate professionals regularly use drones to market rural properties, which often requires flying over adjacent land. This bill, as written, could lead to unnecessary conflicts with neighboring landowners who may be unaware of legal exemptions or find them too vague. The last thing we need is arguments on the side of a country road over drone use that is already standard practice.

Additionally, obtaining permission from adjacent landowners is often time-consuming or even impossible, especially in rural areas where land is owned by out-of-state individuals, trusts, or multiple families. Without clear, practical guidelines, this bill could severely limit the ability to market rural properties effectively.

It's also important to note that there are already multiple laws protecting ranchers from harassment of their livestock, including ND Century Code § 12.1-21.1-02, § 12.1-22-03, and § 36-21.1. If an incident of livestock harassment by drones were to occur, ranchers already have strong legal protections under existing laws. This bill unnecessarily duplicates those protections while creating new burdens on lawful drone use.

Thanks for you time.

Ben Kappel
Realtor, Mandan, ND