

HB 1568 Testimony
Senator Kathy Hogan
Senate Industry Business and Labor
March 17, 2025

Chairman Barta and members of the Industry and Business Committee, for the record, my name is Kathy Hogan, and I represent District 21 which is central Fargo and a portion of West Fargo. I am testifying in support of this bill.

The United States and North Dakota have a proud history of many collaborations with Ireland. Beginning in the 1800s, the Catholic Church began asking for both Priests and Sisters from Ireland to help settle our state. In the Fargo Diocese, three of the first six Bishops were Irish and the Irish Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary settled in Fargo in 1882 beginning a long history of opening over 25 schools and 10 hospitals in eastern North Dakota. The Irish settled all over ND, but primarily in the northwest corner places like Kenmare and Donnybrook.

This bill is modeled after similar trade agreements in at least 19 other states. The ND American Irish Caucus had 13-members last session and as the Senate Caucus leader I invite all of you with Irish Heritage to consider joining the Caucus which meets regularly at both NCSL and CSG meetings.

It has been my privilege to travel to Ireland several times and immediately fell in love with the land, the people and customs. Ireland is among the world's leading exporters of computer software. The principal imports include machinery and transport equipment, chemicals, petroleum and petroleum products, food products, and textiles.

Thank you for considering this bill and I am more than willing to answer any questions.