

Good Morning Chairman Barta and members of the Senate Industry and Business Committee,

For the record, my name is Senator Ryan Braunberger, and I represent the district of Fargo. Senate Bill No. 2237 seeks to strengthen tenant protections and streamline the resolution of landlord-tenant disputes. This bill represents a proactive step in ensuring fair treatment for renters across North Dakota and establishing clear expectations for landlords.

Under SB 2237, the Labor Commissioner will be empowered to receive and investigate tenant complaints regarding landlord noncompliance with key provisions of the North Dakota Century Code, specifically sections 47-16-20 and 47-32-02. This bill provides a framework for addressing these disputes, including a mechanism for notifying landlords of violations and allowing them to correct issues before disciplinary action is taken.

In addition to protecting tenants, this legislation promotes fairness by giving landlords a straightforward process for addressing complaints and ensuring compliance. It's a balanced approach that respects the rights and responsibilities of both parties.

However, this measure also recognizes the need for adequate resources to implement it. As detailed in the fiscal note, the Department of Labor and Human Rights will require additional staff and funding to manage the anticipated case increase. While this represents an investment, it is a necessary step toward creating a more transparent and just housing system.

By supporting SB 2237, we demonstrate our commitment to fairness and accountability in the landlord-tenant relationship. I look forward to discussing this bill further and addressing any questions or concerns you may have. Thank you for your attention and dedication to improving North Dakotans' lives.