

The North Dakota Constitution, specifically **Article I (Declaration of Rights), Section 1** states: "All individuals are by nature equally free and independent and have certain inalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty; acquiring, possessing and protecting property and reputation; pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness..." This clearly establishes a constitutional basis for citizens to safeguard their property values and personal well-being, which include health concerns tied to industrial development.

Zoning laws, managed by local governments like counties and townships, are a key mechanism for communities to exercise these rights, ensuring land use aligns with residents' interests— if a township restricts industrial development near homes, it's protecting residents from noise, pollution, or plummeting property values—threats to both health and wealth.

HB 1258 seeks to waive or override local zoning authority in favor of industrial shareholder interests, this is infringing on our rights by reducing the people's ability to influence decisions that directly affect their land and health.

Bill 1258 would give a transfer of wealth from ND rural residents to industrial shareholders— often far removed from North Dakota—who will reap the profits, while locals bear the costs.

HB 1258 sacrifices local control without clear, equitable benefits for North Dakotans, it's not just a policy shift—it's a constitutional overreach.

Thank You,

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