

Dear Senators,

I am writing to express my **strong opposition** to HB 1258.

Testimony in Opposition to HB 1258

Representative Brandenburg recently stated there is "a lot of emotion out there." Yes—because this issue **cuts to the heart of who we are**. HB 1258 is a direct assault on property rights, local control, and the future of North Dakota's rural families.

My partner's great-grandfather purchased our family's land in 1905. Through decades of hardship, sacrifice, and relentless work, each generation has fought to protect and preserve this land. Now, **corporate interests—enabled by our own legislature—are working to take it away**. HB 1258 prioritizes energy companies over landowners, silencing the very people who have lived on and cared for this land for generations. By the time my farm-loving son—our **fifth-generation steward**—is old enough to carry on this legacy, there may be no land left for him to farm.

HB 1258: A Direct Attack on Property Rights

This bill **strips landowners of their right to have a say** in projects that directly impact their land.

- **Erosion of Property Rights** – North Dakotans take pride in their land. HB 1258 shifts power to **corporations**, sidelining those who have worked for generations to keep their land.
- **Loss of Local Control** – North Dakota values **community-driven decision-making**. HB 1258 **undermines that**, allowing **outside interests to dictate land use**.
- **A Dangerous Precedent** – If passed, HB 1258 opens the door to even **more legislative overreach**, favoring large-scale developers over individual freedoms.

Rushed Through Without Public Awareness

HB 1258 passed through committee and the House quickly and effortlessly—not because it had public support, but because the public was never given a fair chance to weigh in. Landowners, farmers, and rural communities had no idea this bill was moving forward until it was nearly too late. That is not how democracy should work. Legislation that impacts the livelihoods of so many should never be pushed through quietly, without the people's voice being heard.

The Human Cost on North Dakota's Farmers

Farming isn't just a job—it's a way of life. **Losing that legacy isn't just financial—it's emotional**. The mental toll of watching land be taken away—by corporations with the blessing of state lawmakers—will be **devastating**. According to the CDC, agricultural workers already suffer **one of the highest suicide rates in the nation**. What happens when they see a century of work erased with the stroke of a pen?

Stand with North Dakota's Farmers. Vote NO on HB 1258.

North Dakota has always stood for **property rights, local control, and protecting rural communities**. HB 1258 betrays those values. I urge you to **stand with landowners and local governments** by rejecting this bill. **Vote NO on HB 1258**.

Sincerely,

Brittany Fleck
District 28
Edgeley, ND