

Mr. Chairman and committee members, thank you for allowing me to write on behalf of my opposition to the SB2245.

My family has farmed in the Berthold area for over 70 year's and I have successfully started several business's in my own career. Outside of our local elevators and cooperatives I have yet to see value added, agricultural based ventures take hold even when they are "can't miss deals" much like the proposed Intermodal facility the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce is touting in their flashy handout they have made available to you. The new operator is looking for \$10 million to get the facility operating again. My question is if this is such a slam dunk why can't they raise \$10 million of private money instead of attempting to rob it from the taxpayers of the state? They paint such a rosy picture yet they are not able to raise the money from private sources which is laughable to me. It shows you that outside of the supposed "experts" who have testified for SB2245 no one else is willing to commit and put their own money into the project. This is a giant red flag.

I understand that the financial institutions who currently own the facility are the Bank of North Dakota and First Western Bank. If this bill is passed you are bailing out Senator John Hoeven's bank and his former employer at the Bank of North Dakota. There are exactly ZERO reasons the 7th richest United States Senator should be receiving a bailout! Anyone who claims this will end up great for the people of North Dakota is only trying to curry political favor with powerful people within the state. Typical good ole boy politics at work the people of this state are fed up with.

Please vote no on SB2245 and let the private sector find out if this is feasible or not. We do not need more capitalist cronyism in this state.

