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Date: February 3, 2022 at 11:58:49 AM CST
To: Kyle Schoenfish <Kyle.Schoenfish@sdlegislature.gov>

Subject: [EXT]: SB168

I write this to show support for the above mentioned bill. I do this for several reasons while at the same time understanding the importance of private landowner rights which is a foundational stone of our society.
Growing up there was a time when respect for those who have passed on was commonplace. Even to the point that out of respect for the deceased we would not walk on their grave site. That respect seems to have long since passed and gotten worse.
My interest in this legislation lies in the fact that at one time a great many interments were in what are now fields and pastures and are duly marked with stones and markers. I can think of two near my home that have not only sentimental value but also historic value, the visiting of which is becoming ever more popular as people learn the history behind the gravesite.
The best solution as is currently the case with the two sites I have in mind is for the landowner and visitor to come to some common understanding but when that is not the case then perhaps designating a third party (possibly requiring an amendment) such as a county cemetery advisory board or placing authority under county planning and zoning may need to be called upon.
Having just lost my mother from a stroke this has awakened in me the importance of burials, burial sites and visitation of those places. I pray you each understand from that perspective. Thank you for your time in hearing these thoughts and may wisdom be yours as you come to a decision on this important matter.

Gary Jerke