

House Bill 1166

Senate Commerce and Energy commission:

I know your time is valuable so I will try and be quick. I am writing this letter today in opposition to House Bill 1166. I have been a lifelong Republican of this great state, and I consider myself to be a conservative, I must encourage you to not support this bill.

Let's start here, this bill was poorly written, this bill attacks and goes after associations, and organizations that are at or could be at the workplace. This bill has been put forward to you in the idea that it is a "right-to-work" bill. This bill goes far beyond just being a right to work bill. HB1166 does not just affect the employee/employers right to decision, but it affects organizations and associations' ability to openly communicate with employees/employers at the workplace. This does not align with the conservative beliefs that we hold dear here in the great state of South Dakota.

Now we will talk about the fact that almost everything within this bill is already covered in state statute, this makes me have to beg the question, why do we need this bill? I don't believe we need this bill, and I hope that you will agree with me that this is an unnecessary bill. This bill will not help the small to medium business owner, this bill will only help the largest of the employers in and working within South Dakota. When representative Randall introduced this bill into the House Energy and Commerce committee, he was asked who had approached him to bring this bill forward, Rep. Randall did not come forth with who was the architect of this bill, he said it had been "approached and asked to carry this bill".

Lastly, I would like to remind this committee that the organizations and associations that exist within this state are here to work together with the employees/employers to further the good of both parties. Labor unions can offer employers different opportunities to give their employees benefits and, in most cases, better benefits than a small business can provide on their own, labor unions give these businesses the opportunity to collectively purchase health insurance, which in most cases will cost the employer/employee less. Employers can utilize advanced apprenticeship programs, opportunity to staff their larger jobs while not having to worry about laying those employees off when that large job is done, those employees move on to other jobs, not being a burden to that employer. HB1166 does not seem like a bill proposed to help the small to medium size employer but a bill designed to help a miniscule portion of the state's largest business owners.

I think in the end what I would really like you to think about is this: organizations, associations, and yes even labor unions here in South Dakota truly want the success of the employer/employee. The best way to make that work is not creating more burdensome legislation and simply maintain our current "right-to-work" laws. This will allow these organizations, associations, and labor unions to reach out to the South Dakota employers/employees and give them the opportunity to make informed decisions.

Cordially

Cassie Silbernagel

Republican District 32

