

HB 1152

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Josette Severson

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Representatives,

My Name is Josette Severson. I own Prairie Patriot Firearms Training in Mandan. In addition to my range and training center, I sell firearms, accessories and cigars. One of the common themes I hear from my cigar guests is "why can't you start a cigar lounge so we have somewhere indoors to smoke our cigars".

The firearms industry is one that not everyone supports. Those who choose to frequent my range support their right as Americans to enjoy the shooting sports or for personal protection. Like firearms, the cigar industry is also one that not everyone supports. Thankfully we live in a country that allows their citizens the freedom of choice to indulge in what they enjoy, be it shooting or a good cigar.

With my range and training facility, I adhere to all the state and federal rules and regulations for operating a safe, clean facility. My guest's well-being is the core of my business.

Today, I am asking for myself and other business owners to have the opportunity to operate cigar bars and lounges. HB 1152 details the professional rules and regulations that will ensure a safe environment to enjoy a cigar with other like-minded citizens.

A safe environment will include a standard HVAC system that will circulate air, along with a powerful, commercial smoke eater. Smoke eaters draw smoke through a series of filters that collect harmful

particles and odors before discharging fresh, clean air. A blower draws air into the unit. The unit captures Particulate, haze, in a HEPA (high-efficiency particulate arrestor) filter and smoke odors in a carbon filter. A good commercial smoke eater will be able to remove about 95 percent of smoke particles on each pass through the filter.

I'm a fine, upstanding North Dakota citizen that enjoys a good cigar. If fellow North Dakotans will have the opportunity to enjoy recreational marijuana – why can't I have the right to a cigar at a legally, regulated cigar lounge?

Thank you for the opportunity to hear my testimony. I will take any question you may have.