

State of Nebraska

Accountability and Disclosure Commission

P.O. BOX 95086
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
nadc.nebraska.gov

February 20, 2025

Senator Rita Sanders
District
Room 1404
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509



Centre Terrace, 1225 L St. #400
Phone (402) 471-2522
Fax (402) 471-6599

RE: Conflict of Interest Statement

Dear Senator Sanders,

We are in receipt of your Potential Conflict of Interest Statement ("Statement") filed with our office on February 18, 2025. We understand that you have filed this Statement pursuant to the terms of §49-1499 of the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act ("NPADA"). The Statement contains the necessary information as provided by said Statute, and it will be maintained on file with our Commission as a public record.

In your Statement, you note that you intend to vote on LB 266, "unless advised otherwise by the NADC." We respectfully note that the NADC does not typically provide an assessment of conflict of interest with respect to Senators in view of the language of §49-1499(2), which states: "Nothing in this section shall prohibit any member of the Legislature from voting, deliberating, or taking other action on any matter that comes before the Legislature." Thus, the NADC may not advise a Senator not to take action on specific bills based upon conflict of interest considerations.

If you have not already done so, please be sure to forward a copy of this Statement to the Speaker of the Legislature so that it may be filed in accordance with §49-1499.

Please contact me at 402-471-0846 if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Neil B. Danberg, General Counsel

NEBRASKA ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISCLOSURE COMMISSION 1225 L St., Suite 400 P.O. Box 95086 Lincoln, NE 68509 (402) 471-2522	POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT NADC FORM C-2	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 2px;">POSTMARK DATE</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center; padding: 2px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">MICROFILM NUMBER</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">OFFICE USE ONLY</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center; padding: 10px;"> RECEIVED FEB 18 2025 NEBRASKA ACCOUNTABILITY and DISCLOSURE COMMISSION </td> </tr> </table>	POSTMARK DATE		MICROFILM NUMBER		OFFICE USE ONLY		RECEIVED FEB 18 2025 NEBRASKA ACCOUNTABILITY and DISCLOSURE COMMISSION	
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**BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM
READ THE FILING REQUIREMENTS
ON PAGE 3**

- An official or employee of the executive branch of state government or any other official or employee required to file Statements of Financial Interests must file this form if he or she has a potential conflict of interest.
- Elected officials of school districts and elected officials of villages and cities (except Omaha and Lincoln) should not use this form. Use Potential Conflict of Interest Statement Form C-2A.
- File this Potential Conflict of Interest Statement with the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission and with your immediate superior (if any) whenever a potential conflict of interest situation arises.
- Persons who fail to disclose a potential conflict of interest or who otherwise do not comply with the law are subject to penalties.

ITEM 1	NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER
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Name	Sanders	Rita	Gomez	Telephone No.	402 980-0904
	Last	First	Middle		
Address	507 Martin Drive			Bellevue	NE 68005
	STREET ADDRESS OR RURAL ROUTE			City	STATE ZIP CODE

ITEM 2	TITLE, AGENCY, ADDRESS, PHONE AND SUPERIOR
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Your Title	State Senator	Agency	N/A
Agency Address	N/A	Agency Phone	N/A
Name of Immediate Superior	N/A	Title	N/A

ITEM 3	DESCRIBE POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN DETAIL (Use Item 7 Continuation, if necessary)
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Date action is to be taken or decision is to be made: _____

Description of Potential Conflict:

Senator Rita Sanders is Chair of the Government, Military and Veteran's Affairs Committee which on January 29, 2025 heard LB 266 which, if passed, would prohibit local government entities from imposing rent controls on private property with the exception of rent control programs meant to increase affordable housing or programs voluntarily entered into by a property owner. Senator Sanders' spouse, Rick Sanders, owns a corporation, Sarco, Inc., which owns commercial real estate properties but also owns two residential retirement communities, one of which is an assisted living and memory care facility and the other an independent living community for seniors. Both of these are in Bellevue, NE. Senator Sanders is a contingent beneficiary of Trusts which hold the Sarco, Inc. shares. Although highly unlikely, some may feel that LB 266, if passed, could benefit these retirement communities by preventing them from being subject to rent controls. Rents for these communities are currently market rate and these properties are not the type generally considered for rent controls. The potential for benefit is very low and this statement is being filed out of an abundance of caution.

ITEM 4 PERSONS WHO MAY RECEIVE FINANCIAL BENEFIT OR DETRIMENT☒ You☒ Member of your Immediate Family: Rick Sanders, spouse
NAME

Business With Which You

☒ Are Associated (See Definitions) Sarco, Inc.
NAME OF BUSINESS**ITEM 5 NATURE OF FINANCIAL BENEFIT OR DETRIMENT**

Remote possibility of financial benefit if LB 266 is passed and prohibits local government entities from imposing rent controls on property such as is owned by Senator Sanders' spouse. Such benefit would only arise if rent controls were generally used or applied to suburban market rate senior living communities. This is not currently the case.

ITEM 6 FOR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE ONLY

If you will not abstain from acting on a matter state why, despite the potential conflict, you intend to vote or otherwise participate.

Senator Sanders must coordinate LB 266 as chair of the Government, Military and Veterans Committee. She does not currently intend to recuse herself from chairing her committee if the bill comes before it nor abstain from voting on it, unless advised otherwise by the NADC. This is based on the fact that the possibility of a benefit to her husband's business is extremely remote.

If Senator Sanders has a conflict in these circumstances it would seem that every senator who owns or has an interest in residential rental property in Nebraska is subject to a potential conflict of interest with respect to LB 266.

ITEM 7 CONTINUATION

(SIGNATURE)

(DATE)