First, the Territory is not in a financial condition to bear the burden of a State Government. The adoption of a State Government will entail upon our present population of about forty thousand a much larger taxation than they can bear, as the tax will necessarily be increased by such a change, at least two per cent in addition to the present rates.

Second — the present Senators elected are not the choice of the people, and do not represent their views in any respect.
We believe the forcing of a State Government upon our people against their will, or without their having an opportunity to vote upon the question is an act of injustice, and totally contrary to the spirit of our institutions.

We particularly desire that these facts should be telegraphed to Washington as the earliest possible moment. (double column)
Petition of citizens of Dakota Territory against statehood, no date; Territorial Papers (Dakota); Records of the U.S. Senate, National Archives and Records Administration (8E4/16/4/4, tray 7, folder=Unidentified)