

Troy Coons
Northwest Landowners Association
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Testimony for HB 1401
January 28, 2021



Good morning, Chairman Porter and members of the committee, thank you for taking my testimony into consideration today.

My name is Troy Coons and I am the Chairman of the Northwest Landowners Association. Northwest Landowners Association represents over 560 farmers, ranchers, and property owners in North Dakota. Northwest Landowners Association is a nonprofit organization, and I am not a paid lobbyist.

I am here to testify in support of HB 1401. We appreciate that this legislation ensures additional measures being taken to protect the groundwater; and in turn protecting the health of all citizens and livestock. We have many members who have buried reserve pits on their property, and there is a lot of concern among landowners that these reserve pits will eventually leak. We know that some of them are surrounded by liners, but those liners only have a certain lifetime before they begin to degrade. Many pits do not have liners at all. It seems wise to start thinking of a way to monitor these pits to ensure that they do not contaminate our water or other natural resources when the special waste starts to migrate. We hope to see a continued trend of legislation being put in place to protect the precious resources of North Dakota.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our comments.

Sincerely,

Troy Coons, Chairman
Northwest Landowners Association