

Thank you Chairman Dockter and members of the House Political Subdivisions Committee:

My name is Tom Dahl. I am a farmer and landowner in Griggs County. I currently serve on the following boards: Chairman of the Griggs County Water Resource District, member of the Tri-County Water Resource District comprised of Griggs, Barnes, and Stutsman Counties, and Washburn Township Board Chairman. SB 2324 is a bill that will heighten the water struggles/difficulties within this state and I ask that you vote against it for several reasons.

1. Creates problems for downstream landowners by:
 - A. Increasing culvert sizes such as an 18" to a 24", 24" to a 30", 30" to a 36". A fairly inexpensive way to create a problem for those downstream, but creates downstream impacts that are not taken into consideration the way the bill is currently written.
 - B. Jumping watersheds forcing water to go against USGS Stream Stats Natural Waterway.
 - C. Increasing drainage with the help of modern technology including Lasers, GPS, and RTK.
2. Will allow artificial drainage of large sloughs.
3. The bill, as written, requires townships and counties to construct improvements mandated by unelected officials potentially creating a financial burden.

Griggs County, who borders Foster County to the east, is currently dealing with an exemplary situation. Foster County's 1,000 acre watershed on the eastern part the county originally flowed east across the Griggs' county line and continued north traveling under Hwy. 200 making its' way to the 3rd St. Drain. This water shed was rerouted decades ago to a watershed flowing southeast instead of north. Over the recent years Foster county landowners have jumped an additional 1,200 acres joining the 1,000 acre water shed forcing it to accept 2,200 acres of water going SE causing tremendous problems for landowners in Griggs County as it cannot handle this volume.

The current century code provision focuses only on the upstream side of the road, but has no provisions on property damages that will occur downstream. Griggs County is a major importer of water as it is the outlet for many drains that require larger culverts at the bottom end of the watershed.