



NORTH DAKOTA SENATE

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February 4, 2021

Chairman Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee. I'm Senator Merrill Piepkorn from north Fargo's district 44. I'm here today to introduce Senate Bill 2342, what we are calling the Healthy Soils bill. The driving force behind this bill is Dr. Shelley Lenz, and she will be along in a moment to take through a deep dive of the bill. For now, I will tell you that SB 2342 would create a new subsection under North Dakota Century Code 4.1-20 Soil Conservation. The bill adds the principle of soil restoration to soil conservation. Some of this work is going on across the state but in something of a patchwork quilt manner. This bill provides a mechanism to create a statewide infrastructure to connect soil experts, conservation groups, producer groups and individuals championing the principles of soil health. You'll hear the term "Soil Champions" several times during today's discussion of the bill.

If we can look at the amendments.....

This is a bill that has broad support among the public and provides a lot of common ground for all of us, as North Dakotans, to stand together on, as we not just protect what we have, but to improve it. Our soil is still our most important resource and we depend on healthy soil to support what I will say is still out most important industry and contribution to the world.

I'll give way to Dr. Shelley Lenz who will further explain the bill and is best equipped to answer your questions about it. And I'll head next door to my Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Thank you

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2342

Page 10, line 30, remove ""Society" means the soil and water conservation society."

Page 11, line 1, remove "g."

Page 11, line 3, replace "h." with "g."

Page 11, line 11, replace "i." with "h."

Page 11, line 20, remove "society and the"

Page 11, line 21, after "service" insert "and soil health champions, depending on willingness and availability."

Page 11, line 25, remove "the society and"

Page 11, line 26, after "service" insert "and soil health champions"

Page 12, line 22, replace "Complete" with "Organize existing soil health information and complete"

Page 13, line 3, replace "carbon sequestration" with "soil organic material"

Renumber accordingly