



**North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Senate Energy and Natural Resources
Committee
Testimony in Support of SB 2144
January 14, 2021**

Chairman Kreun, members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, for the record my name is John Weinand; I am a farmer and a landowner from Hazen, North Dakota. I am Past President of the North Dakota Grain Growers Association and I was a citizen member of the Interim Natural Resources Committee. Today I am here to represent myself and the North Dakota Grain Growers Association in support of SB 2144.

I was proud to be asked to participate in the Interim Natural Resources Committee during the 2019-2020 Interim. Landowner rights is a very important issue to me and to my family. I am an avid hunter as well, tackling mountain lions among other species in our state. I was pleased with the legislation, for the most part, that our Committee has forwarded for the 2021 Legislature's consideration. Committee members did not always agree but it is the debate that ultimately provides for legislation for your consideration.

Landowner rights is a top priority for both myself and the North Dakota Grain Growers Association. We continue to maintain that the most equitable solution to property rights in North Dakota is to have the state maintain all land closed to trespassing unless otherwise designated. However, we also feel that SB 2144 represents progress in the landowner rights issues.

Specifically, we support the following concepts contained in the bill:

- Support of using a fence to define property for the purposes of trespass.
- Allowing law enforcement, the flexibility in determining trespass and the limitations in NDCC 12.1-22-03 subsection 4 regarding the penalties for trespass.

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- Allowing landowners, the flexibility to express their desires for their property either in a physical or electronic manner.

With the preceding included in SB 2144 both myself and the North Dakota Grain Growers Association would urge the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee give the legislation a do pass recommendation and would urge the Senate to concur.