

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

Testimony for HB 1183

03/18/2021

Good Morning,

Chairman Burckhard and members of the committee. My name is Jason Hovdenes, and I am here today speaking in a neutral position regarding HB 1183.

I am a licensed water and sewer contractor from Carrington. I am here today to with concerns of the current status of the onsite wastewater system.

- Licensing
 - Installers license in a single health district
 - Do not get listed in other districts as an installer.
 - Contractors are not being considered for jobs.
- Regulations
 - Differ from district to district.
 - Some counties do not adopt a code.
- Proposed bill 1183
 - Concerns
 - Too many health district members
 - 8 environmental health districts represented by 3 members of the 7-member committee.
 - 4 installers on committee with approximately 500 installers in North Dakota
 - Suggest adding a member of the public and removal of a health district member.
 - No mediation listed.
 - Mediation for disputes with installations of septic systems
 - Between installers, property owners, and/or regulators
 - Would suggest the committee would be able to make an opinion for onsite wastewater issues and /or for disputes.
 - Pros for the bill
 - Creates a central guide for the state.
 - Installers will help lead their industry.

- Will bring a central standard forward for education.
- Bring together a central list for licensed contractors.
- Other items I want to bring forward.
 - Health Districts
 - In my opinion are the enforcement piece of the system
 - Why are environmental health individuals creating a plumbing regulation?
 - Who is holding environmental health accountable for their own regulations?
 - I have witnessed that they have designed systems at a much larger sizing factor than what their regulation requires.
 - Then stating we do not design anything below a certain size, even if the code allows smaller sizing.
 - New applicants are being allowed to take a 2-to-4-hour class online from different outside sources to become installers.
 - Contractors
 - Is in their best interest to provide quality work.
 - Work with all aspects of septic systems
 - Plumbing
 - Soils
 - Excavation and dirt work
 - Regulations

I am working hard to bring together all parts of the system. I bring forth these items for the citizens of North Dakota. I am a citizen not just a contractor trying to improve my situation. There are issues that need to be addressed for North Dakota.

Thank You

Jason Hovdenes

Owner/Manager

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