

Good evening Chairman Patten and members of the Natural Resources Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 2251. I will try to keep this short as I know you are all very busy. I urge a “do pass” recommendation on SB 2251. Private property rights are constantly under attack, and this bill puts the ball back in the landowner’s court. If a project truly is “for the greatest public benefit” then there should be no problem getting permission to survey someone’s property, and if permission is not given - let the courts decide. Unfortunately, many of these projects often fail to disclose how they devalue, disturb, and fragment land that is invaluable to people of North Dakota. Summit Carbon Solutions proposed project is a prime example.

As things stand, someone can enter your property (even if legally posted for no trespassing) at any time to survey for a project that you are completely unaware of, to further said project that will “take” your land, all without input or permission from the landowner! What a slick deal that is for everyone except landowners. The current law goes against the simple principles of private property rights, which are the foundation of prosperity and freedom upon which America was built on. Please pass this bill and strengthen property rights for North Dakotans.

Thank you,

Greg Schonert