

TESTIMONY OF

Rex Honeyman, Hydrologist Manager, Water Appropriation Division

Chairman Warrey and members of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee, I am Rex Honeyman, Manager of the Subsurface Exploration Section for the Department of Water Resources (Department). I am also the Department's representative for the North Dakota Board of Water Well Contractors and serve as their Executive Officer. I'm here today to provide testimony in support of SB 2058.

The North Dakota Board of Water Well Contractors (Board) consists of the Directors of the Department of Water Resources and Department of Environmental Quality or their designees, two water well contractors, one geothermal system driller or monitoring well contractor, one water well pump and pitless unit installer, and one at-large member as appointed by the Governor. In addition to the Department's place on the Board, we also serve as the administrative entity supporting the Board and, as a part of the Department's regulatory duties, the Department collects and files drillers' reports for the Board.

SB 2058 is the result of a 2-year long process. Starting in 2023, the Board began reviewing its rules and guiding code to ensure all were up-to-date. The Board then proceeded to go through the Administrative Rules process to clean-up years of outdated code and shift the operational aspects of the Board's duties over to Administrative Rules. That process concluded this fall, and the Board's rules went into effect October 1, 2024. The Board is now looking to complete this effort through this bill proposal.

The Department has assisted the Board throughout this process and supports the passage of SB 2058.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I'm happy to answer any questions.