

Testimony SB2117

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Testimony in Support for SB2117

To the Honorable Chairman and the members of the Committee. We submit these remarks on behalf of DRC.

DRC was founded in 1978 by farmers, ranchers, and landowners that wanted to ensure the land was protected and reclaimed during coal development. We worked to get reclamation laws in place at the state and federal levels and are proud of that legacy. Governor Art Link stated in his Landscape is Quiet Again speech 1973: "And when we are through with that and the landscape is quiet again, when the draglines, the blasting rigs, the power shovels and the huge gondolas cease to rip and roar and when the last bulldozer has pushed the spoil pile into place and the last patch of barren earth has been seeded to grass or grain, let those who follow and repopulate the land be able to say, our grandparents did their job well. The land is as good and in some cases, better than before. Only if they can say this, will we be worthy of the rich heritage of our land and its resources."

We need this bill helps make sure that more lands in coal country are reclaimed and allows North Dakota to live up to Governor Link's famous speech. Reclaimed lands can be returned to family farms, or used for recreation, which in turn benefits all North Dakotas.

We urge a do pass recommendation