



In Opposition to SB 2118
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Testimony of Drew Courtney
January 16, 2025

Chairman Patten and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity for the North Dakota Corn Growers Association to testify on SB 2118.

For the record, my name is Drew Courtney. I farm near Oakes with my cousin, wife, and kids. I also serve on my township board. I am here today as a board member of the North Dakota Corn Growers Association, which is the voice of North Dakota corn producers, representing more than 13,000 growers across the state.

The North Dakota Corn Growers Association has concerns with SB 2118 as currently written as we believe it would be detrimental to rural infrastructure, both infrastructure for water conveyance and roads. However, we support the alternative language offered by the Water Resource Districts Association.

Importantly, the amendment offered by the Water Resource Districts Association allows local water boards to conduct stream crossing determinations on local projects. This will help ensure that these determinations are done in a timely manner so projects that are necessary to protect and maintain rural infrastructure are completed.

Thank you for your consideration of this amendment to SB 2118. I will stand for any questions you may have.