

TESTIMONY OF

Loren DeWitz, Chair, ND Board of Water Well Contractors

Chairman Wobbema, and members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee, I am Loren DeWitz, Chairman of the North Dakota Board of Water Well Contractors. I'm here today to provide testimony in support of SB 2058.

The North Dakota Board of Water Well Contractors (Board) was established in 1971 with the purpose of enforcing North Dakota Century Code chapter 43-35 and focusing on the quantity and quality protection of ground water resources in North Dakota. The Board currently oversees the licensure of 149 water well contractors, pump and pitless unit installers, geothermal system installers, and monitoring well contractors.

SB 2058 is the result of a 2-year long process aiming to transition the operational aspects of the Board from Century Code to Administrative Code. This bill cleans up Century Code and will make the Board's processes more flexible while maintaining transparency and public input in the process.

Section 1 of this bill removes a reference to a section proposed to be repealed in Section 3. Section 2 updates language to reflect that the Board has established procedures in Administrative Code to guide the preapproval process for continuing education courses. Additionally, Section 3 of the bill propose to repeal sections of Century Code that are duplicated verbatim in Administrative Code. It is the goal of the Board to remain responsive to the needs of our Certificate Holders and up-to-date on continuing education practices and hours and the entire certification process.

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