

Dwight Grotberg

Wimbledon, North Dakota

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee,

Thank you all for your work on matters important to Agriculture. It is important that this legislation takes into consideration the needs of all farmers across the state.

I respectfully I write to you today in support of HB 1437, with the following change(s):

Please remove from this bill the requirement for all projects that are less than 80 acres be reported as described in section 61-32-03.2 Line 1 and Line 2. Specifically, please remove from these Lines "A person" and re-direct the requirements in these Lines to apply to Persons described in Line 3.

In other words, I am requesting that only persons directly draining into assessment drains be required to report as Line 1 states. In 2020 we purchased sub-surface drainage equipment and installed 12 different tile projects on our own land. Most of these were less than 25 acres and directed water to existing wetlands, many on our own property. I understand that water coming into legal drains needs to be managed. On our farm, we only have one subsurface drain that winds up in a legal or assessed drain.

In the legislation that currently requires larger than 80 acre tile projects to be permitted we were told that the compromise would be that less than 80 acre projects would be exempt from reporting and permitting. For this bill we are being told that the compromise now requires reporting but is exempt from a permit requirement. One of my concerns is that requiring reporting now just opens the door for requiring permits for everyone in the future. Farmers in many parts of the state, including mine do not need or want this unnecessary burden. We don't need to add this to the growing list of things we're not allowed to do anymore.

Please pass this bill only after making these changes. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dwight Grotberg