



House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Testimony on SB 2144

North Dakota Game and Fish Department
Terry Steinwand, Director
March 11, 2021

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Terry Steinwand and I'm Director of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. I'm here today to testify in support of SB 2144.

We recognize the importance hunters and anglers place on accessing private land for hunting and fishing and also recognize the importance and value of private property rights to those owning land. This has been a long-standing topic of discussion, attempting to promote private property rights and access to public wildlife resources. The additional option for landowners of electronically posting land for hunting purposes is a very good example of a reasonable and collaborative solution. When bills on hunting trespass were filed in past sessions, landowners stated an issue of concern was the time and expense of placing signs around their property and sportsmen/women stated they wanted to know who to contact for permission to hunt. This bill addresses both questions and provides a solution.

Gratitude must go to Senator Erbele for leading the Interim Natural Resources Committee and also to members of the committee working together to craft this bill. The system that was provided for the pilot study meets the expectations for landowners interested in pursuing an electronic posting option while still allowing those that don't wish to use the electronic system to physically post their land or simply not post it at all. Additionally, the tools, maps and applications available on the Game and Fish website are able to provide the electronic posting information to hunters.

For the above reasons, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department supports the passage of SB 2144 and recommends a DO PASS vote.