

TESTIMONY OF

**Jim Semerad, Director of Air Quality**

Good morning Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Jim Semerad and I am the Air Quality Division Director for the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The DEQ is responsible for the implementation of many environmental protection programs in the state. I am here to testify in support of SB 2238.

The DEQ, through an agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is responsible for the implementation of the federal Clean Air Act (CAA) in North Dakota. Through the efforts of the DEQ, industry, and citizens of the state, North Dakota is one of a handful of states that meets all the national ambient air quality standards. Our high level of air quality is accomplished through compliance outreach, technical evaluations, permitting programs, monitoring, and enforcement activities.

Another section of the CAA requires that the DEQ develop a plan that addresses visibility impairing emissions from a variety of source categories such as electric generation facilities. These plans, known as the Regional Haze State Implementation Plans (SIPs), are routinely reviewed and updated by the DEQ and approved by the U.S. EPA. SIP plan development by the state and subsequent review by the U.S. EPA can be at times contentious. The DEQ strives to follow the law and science in making our Regional Haze SIP determinations and we feel that SB 2238 will support us in this endeavor.

This concludes my testimony and I will stand for any questions from the committee.