



Senate Agriculture – HB 1437
Emmery Mehlhoff, NDFB Public Policy Liaison
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Chairman Luick and members of the committee,

My name is Emmery Mehlhoff and I represent the North Dakota Farm Bureau. NDFB supports HB 1437.

NDFB appreciates the steps the Agriculture Committee has taken to improve tiling policy over the last several sessions. HB 1437 continues many of these efforts and streamlines the permitting process for projects beyond 80 acres.

NDFB has long standing policy to support tiling in ND. Our policy states “We support the agricultural use of drain tile both as a conservation tool and as a flood mitigation tool.” - ID#: 2394/20. Producers and conservation benefit from tiling as it improves soil temperatures, reduces soil compaction, facilitates healthy root development and soil health, and creates an environment for a deep root structure ensuring consistent yields.

Tiling also provides a tool to manage excess water. Excess water flows off the field and that water can either flow through a well-managed subsurface system or it will run-off the surface and take the soil nutrients with it.

NDFB also believes tiling policy should not hinder the producer in their tiling efforts. “We encourage the state, counties, and townships to help and not hinder field tiling, since it helps reduce erosion and runoff water, thus improving the overall quality of watersheds.” -ID#: 2334/19

As a farmer, I understand creating tiling policy for the whole state is as complicated as designing tiling projects for multiple fields. NDFB encourages the committee to keep ND’s vast soil variation and regional differences in mind as they work on this bill.

We believe this bill is a step in the right direction to fix current difficulties in the permitting process and for these reasons, NDFB urges a “Do Pass” recommendation on HB 1437.

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