

To: Senate Agriculture Committee

From: Sarah Lovas

Topic: Support HB1437

Chairman Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee. My name is Sarah Lovas. I am a farmer and agronomist from Hillsboro, ND. Today, I come before you in support of HB 1437 and ask for your DO PASS recommendation in its current form.

Our farm started drain tiling approximately fifteen years ago. We have seen many benefits from drain tile. Drain tile has reduced iron chlorosis in our soybeans and the amount of drown out on our Fargo Clay soils. The spring of 2020 was a difficult spring due to wet fields and prevent plant was prevalent in our area. That spring, it was the drain tiled fields that were planted and the non-tiled fields that were prevent planted. A wet growing season followed, and it was the drain tiled fields that had the better yielding crops.

As I stated earlier, I am here to support HB1437 in its current form. This is the first drainage bill that I have ever supported. This bill does three important things: 1) clarifies the permitting process; 2) is fair and protects the downstream landowners; 3) is fair and protects the landowner wanting to install drain tile.

It is important to acknowledge that there were a lot of people who collaborated, and a lot of hours invested to create this bill and accomplish those three items listed above. As is the nature of the beast when diverse groups work together, there is give and take. Therefore, this bill includes items that are important for all involved parties. It also means these parties made some compromises. For this Committee's reference, I was not part of that collaborative process and did not know about this bill until it was introduced in the House. However, as a farmer who believes in drain tile and a landowner who does not want adverse effects from her neighbors' tile water, this is a good bill and I encourage your DO PASS recommendation in its current form.

Thank you for your time and consideration.