



Testimony of Randy Melvin
On behalf of the North Dakota Corn Growers Association
March 11, 2021
In Support of 1437

Chairman Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee,

My name is Randy Melvin and I farm near Buffalo, ND. I am a board member and past president of the North Dakota Corn Growers Association. On behalf of our state's corn growers, I express our support of HB 1437.

First, let me start out by expressing how important drain tiling is for farming and for our state. Subsurface drainage is an extremely effective tool for removing excess water from our land so that it can stay in operation, allowing improved crop production and yield. But it also can improve the soil health by reducing erosion and compaction, and even water quality improvements with phosphorus and sediment losses less than surface drained fields. Subsurface drainage helps control the speed of the water compared to surface drainage and this can help provide retention and some flood mitigation benefits as well.

HB 1437 will reduce local officials' expenses and provide them with simpler permitting process. Replacing the deed holder with the tax payer for evidence of ownership requirement on the permit is a tremendous improvement and will save much time and effort.

Overall, HB 1437 improves the process for permit applicant and local government and makes it much less cumbersome. I ask for your "do pass" vote for this legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.