

Testimony on 1183
Senate Political Subdivisions Committee
Thursday, March 18, 2021
Lake Region District Health Unit

Good morning, Chairperson Burckhard and members of the Political Subdivisions Committee. My name is Allen McKay, and I am the administrator for the Lake Region District Health Unit which is comprised of Ramsey, Benson, Pierce and Eddy Counties. Lake Region District Health also provides Environmental Health Services to Rolette, Towner and Cavalier Counties. I am here to provide testimony in favor of HB 1183.

I have 33 years of experience in designing and inspecting onsite sewers in the Lake Region District Health Unit and surrounding counties. I have provided onsite sewer education to hundreds of contractors in North Dakota and I am a member of the newly developed statewide contractors association NDOWRA.

I support 1183 because it provides small steps toward providing statewide uniformity while maintaining local control. Working with the contractors to provide the best onsite sewer systems that control contamination of our wells and surface water and protect the environment.

I also support the goal of the contractors to have all onsite sewer contractors licensed, and provide initial and continuing education, and uniformity of regulations across the state.

1183 provides a small step in that direction by the adoption of the technical guide for onsite wastewater recycling treatment and to work together with the contractors to review new onsite sewer technologies and decide if they will work in North Dakota.

That concludes my prepared comments. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.