



NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

**TESTIMONY OF TALEIGH ADRIAN
NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
HOUSE BILL 1258
HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 2, 2023**

Chairman Thomas and members of the House Agriculture Committee:

For the record, I am Taleigh Adrian, representing the North Dakota Wildlife Federation. I'm here today representing our thousands of members in 15 affiliated wildlife and sportsmen's clubs across North Dakota that make up the North Dakota Wildlife Federation.

NDWF supports HB 1258. The Wildlife Federation has a strong track record on working on pollinator projects with our local affiliates and state agencies. This bill would increase knowledge of important pollinators and open the door for better land management practices and conserving important habitat. It would also benefit our agricultural partners who rely on pollinators. Pollinators play a key role in healthy agricultural landscapes, helping private landowners increase and improve the quality of their crop yields and the health and vigor of their grazing lands, which helps North Dakota's family farms and ranches stay in operation.

The state of North Dakota is filled with ample habitat and strong wildlife and plant diversity. Hunting and outdoor recreation activities that depend on this are numerous. North Dakota's habitat and wildlife depend on the continued reproductive capabilities of the plants of North Dakota. A decline in plants that rely on pollination can lead to a breakdown of food sources and a decline in suitable habitat.



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Many plants in North Dakota rely on pollinators to reproduce. These pollinators range from insects, like bees or butterflies, to birds and bats. In recent years, pollinator populations have been decreasing. The reasons for this are not fully understood, and there are likely several contributing factors.

For North Dakota to continue to be filled with ample habitat and strong wildlife and plant diversity, it is important to learn what we can about the decline of the state's pollinators and how we can address this issue moving forward.

We strongly believe that an opportunity to learn more about native pollinating insects and their decline would be beneficial to the state. To continue to provide habitat, ecosystem diversity, and numerous hunting and outdoor recreation opportunities in the state, we believe that the state should take any opportunities to learn and develop programs and practices to protect and recover native pollinating insect communities and restore habitat functionality.

We urge a Do Pass on HB 1258.