

Testimony HB1302

Sam Wagner on behalf of
Dakota Resource Council
1720 Burnt Boat Dr. Ste 104
Bismarck ND 58503
Testimony in Opposition for HB 1302

To the Honorable Chairman of the House Ag Committee and to the representatives of the house. DRC would like to submit the following comments on HB1302.

This bill takes local control away from the counties and continues the trend of top down power of the Ag Commissioner. In my previous experience as a worker at an Anhydrous Ammonia Plant in Sanborn ND with Dakota Plains Cooperative, I know firsthand the dangers that a plant can pose to the local community. The community and the county must decide if they are okay with these risks, not a commissioner that lives miles away from the project.

This bill would make it easier for anhydrous plants to be applied for without the county's consent and our organization would believe that local control should be strengthened rather than taken away. This bill strips the authority that the county commission has to see the zoning permits until the ag commissioner's office looks at them and the power to deny licenses for non-compliance of existing facilities at the expense of sole authority to the commissioner.

We would urge you to recommend a DO NOT PASS vote on this legislation.