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Testimony  
*To the*  
**House Industry, Business, and Labor Committee**  
*on*  
**SB 2253**

Good afternoon, Chairman Louser and members of the committee. I am Javin Bedard, Environmental Health Manager for Grand Forks Public Health (GFPH). GFPH provides environmental services within Grand Forks County and for three additional Public Health Units: Pembina, Walsh, and Nelson/Griggs. I am testifying today in opposition to SB 2253, unless amended as noted below.

Local public health has long worked to improve the installation and oversight of onsite wastewater treatment systems and wants to continue to collaboratively work to achieve statewide licensure of contractors and a common code. To continue to that common goal, GFPH would like to see some amendments to this bill to place the created Technical Guide for Onsite Wastewater Recycling under the Department of Environmental Quality in administrative rules and be less disruptive to some regulatory programs where zoning officials have current oversight. Please consider the following amendments:

Page 1, lines 15-18: Change to state that local public health units shall adopt, administer, and enforce, or have county zoning administer and enforce upon mutual agreement as their designee, septic regulations as promulgated in administrative rules by the Department of Environmental Quality.

Page 5, lines 23-31: delete

Page 6, lines 1-13: delete

GFPH also supports contractor's desire to establish a licensing board. Language from the original bill could be reinserted regarding the licensing board's makeup as follows:

Page 3: lines 23-29 replace existing with:

Beginning August 1, 2024, the governor shall replace the members of the board with five licensees.

Respectfully submitted,

Javin Bedard, RS/REHS, EHP