

**Do Not Pass Testimony  
of Doug Sharbono, citizen of North Dakota  
on HB1546  
in 2023 Special Session, Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of ND**

Dear Chairmen Thomas and Klein and members of the Joint Policy Committee, I am writing as a citizen and believe HB1546 is poor legislation as written and ask for a "Do Not Pass" on it.

North Dakota is an energy and agriculturally rich state. Fertilizer production locally in North Dakota should be a natural win-win, particularly with world unrest that has and can disrupt wholesale supply of fertilizer. I think it would be great to generate it locally, if done correctly.

There are some confounding things with the fertilizer legislation in the past year. Tracking the fertilizer legislation has been exceedingly difficult. It was previously amended into various omnibus bills at the last minute and transferred from bill to bill. Testimony on the \$125,000,000.00 appropriation has not really been readily available until now. This lack of scrutiny and debate for this appropriation amount is troubling.

There has been a wild-eyed penchant to throw all our eggs in one technological basket. With the specified delivery method of electrolysis in the legislation, a process not yet used on a widespread industrial basis, we are gambling that this will work. I do not think it is prudent that the North Dakota citizen should be forced to take a \$125,000,000.00 gamble. That is an irresponsible sum of money to be spent on an industrially unproven method.

Furthermore, electrolysis is an expensive form of energy used to create fertilizer. Hydrogen creation is roughly twice the cost through electrolysis than through the use of natural gas using the Haber Process. It seems silly in a state where under the force of law, we are endeavoring to capture natural gas at the well head, that we instead look for more expensive and untested production methods for the manufacture of fertilizer. We should be good stewards and use the waste products that we create in oil extraction. Electrolysis does not contribute to this good stewardship.

Please do NOT pass HB1546 for the benefit of our citizens in North Dakota. Good stewardship demands killing this bill in its current form.

Thank you,  
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