

House Bill 1272
Testimony of Preston Page
House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
January 27, 2023

Chairman Porter and members of the Committee, my name is Preston Page, president of Dakota Energy, LLC. Dakota Energy is a small oil and gas company focused on the Williston Basin. I appear before you in support of House Bill 1272.

There have been over 18,000 wells spud in North Dakota since 2000, most targeting the Bakken reservoir. As the Bakken play matures, it will require investment in new technology to maintain and grow oil production.

The map being presented shows the wells targeting the Bakken Formation with outlines of what our company defines as Tier 1, 2, and 3.

On the lower left corner of the map is the summary oil production chart of the Bakken wells in North Dakota. Overall, oil production has maintained above 1 million barrels of oil per day, or “bopd.” The chart identifies oil production by date and highlights the steep declines in shale resources and its dependence on new development.

Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) holds the potential to assist in stabilizing the declining oil production of the Bakken. Numerous operators and research institutes are studying the potential of EOR. Part of the issue these operators are encountering is that they do not have wellbores with solid mechanical integrity to test new EOR practices. The wells they operate are economic and generate cash flow. Operators are reluctant to take economic, producing wells offline to try EOR practices. The EOR well status created by House Bill 1272 is designed to give time for operators of Bakken wells to study and implement developed and upcoming EOR practices.

Of wells spud since 2010 targeting the Bakken, 108 have been plugged and abandoned, limiting any potential to test new EOR practices.

Dakota Energy urges your support and a DO PASS recommendation to HB 1272. With that, I would be happy to answer any questions.