

**Bill Testimony in Support of HB 1366**  
***By Representative Landon Bahl***  
**House Energy & Natural Resources Committee, Todd Porter, Chair**  
**Thursday, February 9, 2023**

Chairman Porter & members of the Energy and Natural Resources committee, good morning & thank you for your time. For the record my name is Landon Bahl and I am a representative from District 17 in Grand Forks.

I'm here to testify in support of house bill 1366. This bill simply enables someone engaging in barefoot skiing to be able to wear a barefoot wetsuit. Barefoot wetsuits are full of floatation padding allowing the barefoot skier to not have to wear a life jacket. Barefoot wetsuits also protect the skier in the case of a fall, and maybe most importantly, keep water from going in places it should not. While barefoot skiing, an individual cannot wear a wetsuit in addition to another floatation device such as a life jacket, the reason is because the skier needs to remain nimble, and the extra floatation device prevents this.

Throughout my many years of growing up at the lake and skiing recreationally in addition to skiing for North Dakota's only water ski team, a barefoot wetsuit has never failed myself or anyone I know. The floatation provided in them is substantial, afterall they are made to keep you afloat and protect you. House Bill 1366 would help further protect skiers engaging in this recreational activity on North Dakota lakes and rivers. I kindly ask the committee to make a do pass recommendation on house bill 1366.

Thank you Chairman Porter and members of the committee, I will stand for any questions.

Regards,  
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