

Testimony of Troy Coons on behalf of
Northwest Landowners Association
in favor of
HOUSE BILL NO. 1520
House Energy and Natural Resources
2/9/2023

Chairman Porter and members of the committee, thank you for taking my testimony into consideration today.

My name is Troy Coons and I am the Chairman of the Northwest Landowners Association. Northwest Landowners Association represents over 525 farmers, ranchers, and property owners in North Dakota. Northwest Landowners Association is a nonprofit organization, and I am not a paid lobbyist.

We support HB 1520 because something should be done to address this growing issue. We have heard from our members in growing numbers that they are seeing higher and higher deductions on their royalty paystubs. At our recent annual meeting, we surveyed our membership and asked what issues they felt were important. Although our organization focuses on surface estate issues, more of our members asked us to support legislative efforts to address this deductions issue than any other issue. This is a complicated issue but it is clear that mineral owners need real solutions.

Our understanding is that HB 1520 has a proposed amendment and with that amendment we support HB 1520 and ask you for a do pass.

Thank you,

Troy Coons
Northwest Landowners Association