

## **Testimony on SB 2256**

### **Senate Industry, Business, and Labor Committee**

Good morning, Chairman Larsen and members of the committee. My name is Allen Anderson and I'm the Public Health Director for Walsh County Health District. I am voicing my support of SB 2256.

Walsh County Health District designates Grand Forks Public Health to provide environmental health services for Walsh County. Their Environmental Health Practitioners provide the on-site septic inspections and technical support for installers and homeowners.

The addition of a member of the Division of Environmental Quality to the Onsite Wastewater Technical Committee. The remaining members should remain the same with 4 Environmental Health Practitioners and 4 installers, which provides for equal input and collaboration among local installers and local regulators. Adding a member from DEQ will ensure coordination and input from the State in regards to septic systems. Additionally, the expertise and knowledge offered by a DEQ member will assist in providing science-based input to the committee which benefits the health and safety of all North Dakotans. I believe this will also help greatly in the development and provision of a statewide septic code. Local public health units across the State are committed to working with the installers to complete the statewide onsite septic code and provide licensure reciprocity between all health units.

I am recommending a "do pass" of SB 2256. Thank you for your consideration. I'm available for any questions that you may have.