



The Nature Conservancy in MN-ND-SD
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SUBMITTED TESTIMONY

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
RE: Support for HB 1260

Chairman Patten and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

Thank you for the opportunity for The Nature Conservancy to submit testimony in favor of House Bill 1260. Working effectively with private landowners is essential to the health of fish and wildlife populations in North Dakota, and the Game and Fish Department is well-equipped to carry out this work. House Bill 1260 provides an important tool the Department can use when working with private landowners.

Our organization has been conserving lands and waters in North Dakota since 1971, during which time we have worked with countless private landowners across the state. Improving the quality of North Dakota's habitat is important to maintaining biodiversity in our plants and wildlife, including the migratory birds that rely on grassland and wetland nesting habitat in our state. Because the vast majority of lands are privately owned in North Dakota, providing the Game and Fish Department with the authority to conduct this type of private habitat development is critical to effective wildlife management and stemming the loss of habitat.

Healthy grasslands and wetlands are not just important for wildlife, they help us preserve our water quality, store massive amounts of carbon on the landscape, and sustain North Dakota's outdoor recreation economy. We urge a "Do Pass" recommendation on House Bill 1260.

Thank you for your consideration, and for all the work you do on behalf of North Dakotans.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Staples
External Affairs Manager
The Nature Conservancy in North Dakota

Registered Lobbyist #1323