

**Testimony on
House Bill 1358
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
March 9, 2023
Sherry Adams, Southwestern District Health Unit**

Good morning, Chairman Patten and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Sherry Adams. I am a Registered Environmental Health Specialist and the Executive Officer for Southwestern District Health Unit (SWDHU). My health unit covers the eight counties of the Southwest which includes Adams, Billings, Golden Valley, Bowman, Slope, Dunn, Hettinger and Stark. I am in support of HB 1358 to designate a local public health representative on the environmental review advisory council.

Local and state governmental public health agencies are recognized nationally as having the primary responsibility for promoting and protecting the public's health. Local public health units (LPHUs) serve as the foundation to the public health system as the boots on the ground. Environmental Health Practitioners work in collaboration with the DEQ to provide environmental health services across ND. Being a part of the advisory committee will help with collaboration with the state by assuring open and transparent communication thereby benefitting all ND citizens.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my comments. I ask for a Do Pass recommendation from this Committee. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.