

Testimony  
*To the*  
**Senate Energy and Natural Resources**  
*on*  
**HB 1358**

Good morning Chairman Patten and members of the committee. I am Daphne JohnsonClark, Team Leader for Environmental Health Services for Upper Missouri District Health Unit provides local public health services to Divide, McKenzie, Mountrail, and Williams counties.

I am in support of the addition of a local public health representative on the DEQ Advisory Board. Discussion regarding the importance of maintaining a strong partnership with local public health units occurred during committee work on the establishment of DEQ. The thought at that time was that local public health units would be represented as a county or municipal government. That has not been how it worked out. I recognize the value of a county or municipal representative and do not want to replace that with a public health representative. Thus, the addition of another member on the Board is requested.

Local public health units deal with a wide range of environmental health issues. I have been at UMDHU since 2003 and was in my current position during the oil boom. Air quality, septic issues, water quality and a multitude of other issues were worked on in partnership with DEQ. It is important that DEQ and local public health units are coordinating their efforts in response to any environmental health concern. Membership on the DEQ advisory board assures a better communication, efficiencies and coordination amongst the local and state activities.

I am sorry I couldn't be there today. Please feel free to contact me at [dclark@umdhu.org](mailto:dclark@umdhu.org) or 701-570-0266 if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.