

Tex Hall Testimony on HB 1510
March 30, 2023

Dosha (Hello), Senator Dale Patten, Chairman

My name is Tex Hall, a Landowner from Mandaree, ND, and Chair of the Fort Berthold Landowners Association. We have several thousand oil wells and many pipelines located on Fort Berthold and majority of landownership is from individual landowners. Our Association advocates on behalf of those landowners that request our assistance.

I write this testimony in opposition to HB 1510 as it will make it more difficult for the surface landowner and family to have to pay for legal fees for those who are in litigation. This will make it more difficult to obtain easements and avoid litigation which will have negative impacts on mineral development. The bill language of items 2 and 3 whereby the amount of compensation to the surface owner is greater than or less than or before the start of litigation creates an unfairness to landowner and advantage to mineral developer. The court should determine attorney fees not this Bill and lets the mineral developer off the hook from paying legal fees. Furthermore, this creates a hindrance from a landowner right to sue and obtain fair market compensation and have to accept a lower compensation to avoid paying legal fees.

This Bill is not in the best interest of the landowner and family as it creates this unfairness and I am opposed to it. .

Maa zagidaz (Thank you) for the opportunity to provide testimony on this very important Resolution.

Tex Hall, Fort Berthold Landowners Association