

SB 2097
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Jan. 5, 2023

Good morning, Chairman Patten and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. For the record, my name is Julie Ellingson and I represent the North Dakota Stockmen's Association, a 93-year-old beef cattle producer trade organization with more than 3,150 members across the state.

We stand in support of SB 2097, which adds a larger scope of entities to the decision-making and communication sphere when a wild and scenic river designation is being contemplated in the state. We think this is a great idea, as we have had long-standing policy citing our concerns about such designations and how they have the potential to curtail grazing and mineral development, stop range improvements, require relocation of homesteads and create an economic hardship on affected producers and communities. More thought-leaders to help thoroughly vet the decision would be beneficial.

For these reasons, we support the enhanced process as outlined in SB 2097.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our testimony.