

Testimony of Troy Coons on behalf of
Northwest Landowners Association
in favor of
SENATE BILL NO. 2264
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
February 2, 2023

Chairman Patten and members of the committee, thank you for taking my testimony into consideration today. My name is Troy Coons and I am the Chairman of the Northwest Landowners Association. Northwest Landowners Association represents over 525 farmers, ranchers, and property owners in North Dakota. Northwest Landowners Association is a nonprofit organization, and I am not a paid lobbyist.

We support SB 2264 because it requires notice of PSC siting and routing proceedings be given to landowners whose property will host a project under review. In 2021, we worked with legislators to pass SB 2263 (2021). This prior bill added the notice language you see in SB 2264, but it was added to North Dakota Century Code section 49-22-08 which is titled “Application for a certificate — Notice of filing — Amendment — Designation of a site or corridor.” There are three other sections of the Century Code which relate to and form the basis for the PSC’s siting authority, as follows:

- 49-22-08.1. Application for a permit - Notice of filing - Amendment - Designation of a route.
- 49-22.1-06. Application for a certificate - Notice of filing - Amendment - Designation of a site or corridor.
- 49-22.1-07. Application for a permit - Notice of filing - Amendment - Designation of a route.

It was an oversight on our part not to request to add the same language to all four provisions of the PSC siting chapters. In our view, it should not matter if it is a wind farm or a pipeline, or a route permit versus a corridor permit – the notice to the impacted landowners should exist, and should be the same. This bill simply adds the same language from the prior legislation to the other three sections listed above. This legislation merely requires notice to be provided to landowners when the PSC is considering issuing a permit for a facility on their property. We feel this should be the law and ask that you vote do pass on SB 2264.

Thank you,

Troy Coons
Northwest Landowners Association