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Testimony of Doug Goehring
Agriculture Commissioner
Senate Energy and Natural Resources
Peace Garden Room
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Chairman Patten and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I am Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. I am here today in support of SB 2374 as amended.

My office currently operates two ombudsmen programs offering support to landowners in pipeline restoration and reclamation and wind energy restoration and reclamation. Through these programs we contract with independent ombudsman, who assesses the on-site impacts and work with both energy industry and the landowners to resolve the issues in a timely and satisfactory manner.

I would like to suggest changes to item 3 of the proposed amendment to change ombudsmen in the section to commissioner. We do not want a contract employee to be the repository for such information and that information should be maintained with my office.

I believe my office can effectively work with royalty owners and the oil and gas industry to help bring clarity and resolution to the issue before the matters end up in court. I will work together with the industry and royalty owners to provide outreach and education to resolve future matters.

Chairman Patten and committee members, I thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions.