



Testimony of Briselda Hernandez Herrera in support of SB2228
To the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs
Friday, February 7, 2025

Chairman Luick, Vice Chairwoman Myrdal, and Committee Members,

My name is Briselda Hernandez Herrera, and I am the Executive Director of Souris Basin Planning Council (SBPC). SBPC serves a seven-county region comprised of Bottineau, Burke, McHenry, Mountrail, Pierce, Renville, and Ward counties.

I come before you today in support of SB2228. SB2228 is a necessary response to the pressing food access challenges faced by rural communities within our seven-county region. Our region has experienced a decline in rural grocery stores leaving many residents with limited access to healthy and affordable food options. Communities recently affected by permanent or temporary store closures include Drake, Mohall, Westhope, Bottineau, Powers Lake, and New Town. There are several communities who have expressed a need for greater access to food options including Granville and Plaza. SB2228 will provide funding for existing grocery stores to implement solutions that will make them more sustainable and that will help increase food access in communities that currently do not have grocery stores. By passing SB2228, you will help ensure that grocery stores remain in our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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