

Testimony SB2276

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Testimony in Opposition for SB2276

To the Senate Ag and Veterans Committee,

Mr Chairman,

We would like to start this out by saying that we support the idea of watershed districts being created rather than relying on political boundaries that make no sense when it comes to water. However, we're not sure if this bill will conflict with the study that has already been proposed with SB2210. This bill would seem to just make the watershed districts and give them the powers of a Water Resource Board.

The issue with this is that it doesn't dissolve the current water resource boards, it just creates another step of bureaucracy to override a local unit and could likely just cause more problems than it would intend to solve. We would also ask who is going to cover the cost of this board? How will the members of it be appointed? How long will their terms be?

All of these questions should be answered in a study like we currently are looking at doing.

We also have one issue with the map that is being provided. Making the Devils Lake Sheyenne River basin a joint water resource board could be a particularly bad idea due to the recent history of trying to drain Devils Lake into the Sheyenne River. Its an artificially created watershed

We would respectfully request that you take a wait and see approach with a study before implementing this plan. It's not a bad idea but it needs to be workshopped just a bit more before we can be comfortable with it.

Thank you for your Consideration and we urge a DO NOT PASS