



1401 32nd Street SW • Fargo, ND 58103 • Phone: 701-239-4151 • Fax: 701-239-4276

email: information@rrvsga.com

January 29, 2025

Chairman Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to SB 2283. My name is Brent Baldwin, I am a Farmer and President of the Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association. A lot of good work has gone into water management in the last few sessions, this issue included. This bill introduces unnecessary regulatory hurdles, increased costs, makes an unfair shift in control over individual landowners' rights and reintroduces a lot of red tape that was removed in previous sessions.

We have several major concerns with this bill. First are the excessive bureaucratic delays. This bill will require landowners to notify all downstream landowners and wait at minimum 30 days to begin a water management project. This added time is extremely costly with our short summers as we have a limited number of days to get a project done before freeze up or additional rain fall.

Next is the increased costs and unnecessary burden on landowners by requiring now certified mail notifications to all the downstream landowners. There are a lot of out of state landowners now, gone are the days of being able to go to the neighbor's house and they be the ones that own the land. Sometimes its hard to get a hold of all these landowners.

Next is the unfair shift in control to downstream landowners. We all know water flows downhill, and yet this bill will effectively allow downstream landowners to delay or completely prohibit a water management project simply by filing an objection. Additionally, many downstream landowners will be extremely hesitant to sign off on a project as they feel it will prevent them for any potential future claim of damages.

Our last concern is the overall negative impact on agriculture in North Dakota. Water management is key to our success, and the negative and unnecessary restrictions that SB 2283 will impose on effective water management.

We strongly encourage this committee to provide a DO NOT PASS recommendation on SB 2283.

Brent Baldwin
St. Thomas, ND
President – Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers