

Dear Committee Members:

I stand in favor of SB 2283.

In this country, we take the right to own property seriously. There are laws that determine who can own, sell and buy land. We have consequences for people who would say, damage your home. Unfortunately, however, there are no rules that apply to small drainage projects, and this results in small or large transfers of unwanted water onto sometimes unsuspecting downstream neighbors. If a farmer divides his tile drainage area into a series of under 80 acre projects, the unpermitted water transfer can be huge.

Farmers make their living from their most valuable asset, their land- I hope you will read the testimony of Arlen Huber. This is stealing  
Retired people may live on land rent- this came up in a conversation with one of your Senate colleagues, who spoke of a widow who lost some of her income because a neighbor drained on her pasture. This is stealing.  
Too much water in the wrong place can cause habitat loss which is valuable to hunters and wildlife lovers. The taking of the enjoyment of the use of dumped on property without compensation is also stealing.

This bill will remind landowners who would drain that somebody always lives downstream and their rights need to be respected.  
No one likes going to court; the money, emotional energy and embarrassment are all expensive. Mediation is a way of trying to get neighbors to talk to each other and come to a successful outcome.

Passing this bill will help close a much needed loophole in our state water laws.

Thank you for accepting my comments  
Madeline Luke  
Valley City, ND  
1/30/2025