



**North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Testimony in Opposition to SB 2283
Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee
January 30, 2025**

Chairman Luick, Members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee, for the record my name is Dan Wogsland representing the North Dakota Grain Growers Association. NDGGA appears before you today in opposition to SB 2283.

Senate Bill No. 2283 imposes burdensome regulations on landowners who wish to install smaller subsurface water management systems. These systems are often crucial for improving drainage, mitigating flooding risks, and enhancing agricultural productivity.

NDGGA opposes the following aspects of the bill:

* **Excessive Notification Requirements:** The requirement to notify all downstream landowners places an undue burden on landowners. It creates a potential for delays and disputes, hindering timely implementation of necessary drainage projects.

* **Potential for Increased Litigation:** The bill's provisions may inadvertently increase litigation between landowners over drainage issues. The 30-day objection period and the potential for downstream landowners to challenge projects could lead to costly and time-consuming legal battles.

* **Unnecessary Regulation of Small Systems:** The bill applies to relatively small systems, which may not pose significant environmental or hydrological risks. Imposing stringent regulations on these systems is an overreach of government authority and creates unnecessary obstacles for landowners.

* **Potential for Increased Costs:** The added regulatory burden and potential for litigation will increase the costs associated with installing these systems, making them less affordable for many landowners.

NDGGA believes that existing regulations and permitting processes are sufficient to address any potential environmental or hydrological concerns associated with subsurface water management systems.

Chairman Luick, Members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee, the North Dakota Grain Growers Association respectfully requests your Do Not Pass recommendation on SB 2283 and would urge the full Senate to concur.