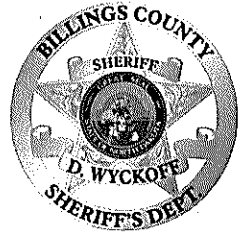


Billings County Sheriff's Office

DEAN WYCKOFF, SHERIFF
495 4th Street • P.O. Box 157
Medora, North Dakota 58645-0157
Phone: 701-623-4323 • Fax: 701-623-4152



February 10, 2025

Honorable Senators Kessel, Patten & Honorable Representatives Kempenich, J. Olson,

My name is Dean Wyckoff, and I am the Sheriff of Billings County. I am writing this letter to you in support of SB 2368, relating to a grassland grazing grant program. As the Sheriff of Billings County, my primary responsibility is the safety and protection of the citizens who live and work here and those who are visitors to our county. The majority of our rural residents are engaged in ranching and farming. It is my understanding that SB 2368 would create and enact a new section of Chapter 4. 1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to a Grasslands Grazing Grant Program. I believe these grants would help provide water development infrastructure for grazing cattle, wildlife, and public use and aid in firefighting resources if needed. I can attest first hand as to the need of emergency water sources while fighting wildland fires. Having readily available water when needed in an emergency situation can make the difference between a small and a large fire. Billings County is the first line of defense and is the primary responding agency for the initial attack of wildland fires within the Grasslands. The badlands topography where wildland fires often start is located in remote areas within the Grasslands with limited water sources. Having additional water sources available for emergencies would be very beneficial in aiding firefighting operations.

SB 2368 is a common-sense approach to improve cattle grazing, provide additional water sources for wildlife and recreationalists as well as aiding in firefighting operations. Please support this bill as it will benefit Billings County as well as its residents and the visiting public. If you have any questions, I can be reached at (701) 623-4323.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Wyckoff", followed by a stylized flourish.

Dean H. Wyckoff
Billings County Sheriff
North Dakota