

TESTIMONY: SB 2179

MATT BJORNSON

BJORNSON OIL COMPANY INC.

CAVALIER, ND

Chairman Weber and members of the committee,

My name is Matt Bjornson, we own Bjornson Oil Company based in Cavalier, ND. We are a third-generation family business started in 1931. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2179. As a conservative business person, I would not normally be in support of a fee imposed on our business to pay for oversight. In this case, the fee of 1/40th of a cent, is meant to fund the inspection of petroleum products and the labeling of those products at retail. That program is an appropriate oversight of our industry. Properly funded, its existence insures a free and fair marketplace and gives appropriate protection to the consumer.

In ND, the department charged with the inspection program also provides compliance assistance and regulatory oversight for our distribution systems per EPA regulations. I hold that department in high regard and recognize that the department has a significant workload in the regulation of our distribution infrastructure. We need them to receive adequate funding to maintain and improve the inspection program.

As an industry we are paying a fee, it is not a tax. I fully support the fee going to the appropriate agency. Again, the inspection program ensures a fair marketplace by ensuring honest marketing and protects the consumer. It is needed and needs to be adequately funded. This bill does that.

Thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any question you may have.