

Testimony of

Erik Olson, resident of Wahpeton, ND in Abercrombie Township

Chairman Patten and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Erik Olson, a resident of Wahpeton, North Dakota in the Township of Abercrombie North Dakota. I am submitting my testimony in opposition to SB 2141.

This bill could have lasting negative effects to entire communities and have permanent environmental impacts. Our state has opened the doors to mega livestock companies to come in and use our precious resources without any benefit to the residents of North Dakota. With the Proposed mega dairy's that are potentially being introduced to Richland and Trail County by Riverview ND, LLP, the "Livestock Use" needs to be carefully looked at.

Currently the Proposed Abercrombie Dairy would be looking at 12,500 dairy head and would use approximately 120 to 180 million gallons of water per year. There should be a limit of specific animal units that would be considered Livestock use, to ensure that a mega livestock farm cannot come in and use water that is already allocated to domestic and municipal use. Even if the allocated water isn't being used to full 100%, a mega livestock should not be able to come in and negatively impact the water source. The sheer amount of water that a mega livestock facility needs, would put an end to small communities. Current and future developments would be affected negatively.

Our state has only recently allowed these mega livestock companies to now enter, and appropriate regulations are not in place to protect the residents of North Dakota and the beautiful resources we have and their rights. I feel that this bill directly makes it easier for mega livestock to negotiate with already allocated water sources and affectively get what they want by using corporate power without consideration of the communities and environment.

Our valuable resource needs to be protected and carefully considered before opening the gates to these mega dairy's.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I'm happy to answer any questions or have further discussions.