

Chad Blessum, Manager

Tri County Water District

In Opposition to Senate Bill 2299

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

February 12, 2025

Chairman Patten and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Chad Blessum. I am the Manager of Tri County Water District.

Tri County Water District (TCWD) is in the east central portion of North Dakota and provides water to 1300 rural connections, three hog operations, and numerous large cattle operations consisting of approximately 2000 miles of pipe in six counties.

I am writing today in opposition to certain proposed amendments within Senate Bill 2299.

Section 3 - 3

Section 3 -3 should be entirely struck out. Allow the water districts existing bylaws to continue to govern this section.

Section 4 – 4

In closing, my understanding is that when water districts were formed, the districts and membership were given little guidance by the State of North Dakota as how to structure themselves. I feel the water districts have done an excellent job creating a working structure and bylaws for their system to operate in an efficient manner. My opinion on this bill is that it should not even had made it this far. These are all issues that can be corrected by the Board of Directors and its' membership. If legislation is being drug into micromanage issues like this, it is just a waste of taxpayer dollars.

Section 5: Emergency Clause

The emergency clause should be entirely struck out.

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in opposition to SB 2299. We respectfully ask for a Do Not Pass Recommendation. If you have any questions, please contact me at csblessum@gmail.com.

