

# Supporting SB 2299

February 12, 2025

Good morning, Chairman Patten and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support SB 2299. I have seen the recently amended version of the bill and would request support for SB 2299 with the version submitted before you today. I am currently a Ward County commissioner and am expressing my opinion only and not that of the commission.

I am also a member of a rural water system and have attended past meetings of that organization. I visited with our county auditor about the original language of SB 2299. She expressed concerns to me about the bill in its original form. But in our recent conversation those concerns have been addressed in the amended version of SB 2299.

We are grateful to have the rural water system available to us and our farm. It has been a blessing at times when our private well has not functioned well over the past years.

Having said that I would like to express concerns about the recent meetings held within our water district that limit the input of both board makeup and policy direction that are of concern and need to be addressed.

Without going into specific details, I believe adopting the new language into NDCC chapter 54-10 and 61-35 would assist a great deal in addressing the concerns of the membership of our Rural water district and possibly others. If some slight adjustments were incorporated in order to address some differing timelines for other districts I would not oppose that in order to accomplish more uniformity in governance.

I encourage you to support SB 2299 in order enhance and protect water districts and their user members in our districts.

Thank you for your time. I would try to answer questions if you have any.

John Fjeldahl

Berthold N.Dak.

701 720 1634