

Testimony of Troy Coons on behalf of
Northwest Landowners Association
in favor of
SENATE BILL NO. 2322
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
January 30, 2025

Chairman Patten and members of the committee, thank you for taking my testimony into consideration today.

My name is Troy Coons and I am the Chairman of the Northwest Landowners Association. Northwest Landowners Association represents hundreds of farmers, ranchers, and property owners in North Dakota. Northwest Landowners Association is a nonprofit organization, and I am not a paid lobbyist.

The Northwest Landowners Association supports SB 2322 because we do not believe that eminent domain should be used for private benefit or by private parties.

The significant power of eminent domain should not be used as a policy tool to encourage the development of specific industries. We do not support any expansion of the power and use of eminent domain. We have heard from members impacted by a flurry of new development in recent years sparked by federal incentives. Landowners should not be forced to host private development on their property. In the oil patch a great deal of development gets done with landowners through private agreements. Negotiations between willing buyers and willing sellers allow landowners to choose the development they support on their property, and responsible developers can find the land best-suited for their project, and the communities who will welcome them.

Thank you again for your time and we urge a **do pass** on SB 2322.

Thank you,

Troy Coons
Northwest Landowners Association