

SENATE BILL 2335

Testimony of Todd D. Kranda

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

- January 30, 2025 -

Chairman Patten and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, for the record, my name is Todd D. Kranda, I am an attorney with the law firm of Kelsch Ruff Kranda Nagle & Ludwig law firm in Mandan, ND. I am appearing before you as a lobbyist on behalf of the North Dakota Petroleum Council.

The North Dakota Petroleum Council represents more than 550 companies involved in all aspects of the oil and gas industry, including oil and gas production, refining, pipeline development, transportation, mineral leasing, consulting, legal work, and oilfield service activities in North Dakota, South Dakota, and the Rocky Mountain region.

The North Dakota Petroleum Council is opposed to SB 2335 as submitted which deals with an award of costs, disbursements, and reasonable expert witness fees in compensation cases under Chapter 38-11 NDCC.

North Dakota already has laws that exist that address the award of costs, disbursements, and reasonable expert witness fees in litigation matters. Those existing statutes provide for the award of costs and disbursements, and reasonable expert witness fees in various cases including these types of situations involving a surface owner and a mineral developer. The changes proposed in SB 2335 are unnecessary and fail to provide a meaningful process to assist in getting these types of disputes resolved for the mutual benefit of the surface owner and the mineral developer.

The North Dakota Petroleum Council opposes the passage of SB 2335 and urges this committee to give SB 2335 a **Do Not Pass Recommendation**. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information. I would be happy to try to answer any questions.