

SENATE BILL NO.

Introduced by

Senator Mathern

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 61-04 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to a moratorium on the issuance of water permits; to provide for a study;
3 and to provide an expiration date.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 61-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 created and enacted as follows:

7 **Moratorium on the issuance of water permits.** Notwithstanding any other provision
8 of law, the state engineer may not issue a water permit for water to be used in the exploration
9 for or production of oil and gas.

10 **SECTION 2. WATER INVENTORY.** The state water commission shall conduct an
11 inventory of ground water resources in North Dakota focusing on ground water and the use of
12 ground water in the oil and gas producing counties. The state water commission shall report its
13 findings and recommendations to the legislative council by July 1, 2010.

14 **SECTION 3. EXPIRATION DATE.** This Act is effective through July 31, 2010, and
15 after that date is ineffective.