

**Engrossed Senate Bill 2070**  
**Testimony of Brady Pelton**  
**House Energy and Natural Resources Committee**  
**March 4, 2021**

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Brady Pelton, government affairs director of the North Dakota Petroleum Council. The North Dakota Petroleum Council represents more than 650 companies in all aspects of the oil and gas industry, including oil and gas production, refining, pipeline, transportation, mineral leasing, consulting, legal work, and oilfield service activities in North Dakota. I appear before you today in general support of Engrossed Senate Bill 2070.

One focus of this bill is on N.D.C.C. Chapter 23.1-10, which provides a mechanism for environmental emergency costs to be addressed. Specifically, the bill broadens the existing cleanup insurance fund for instances of regulated substance release in the event a responsible party cannot be identified and held accountable. Having state resources reserved in this type of fund is an important precaution to ensuring continued environmental health and safety, particularly in events when there exists no responsible party that can cover cleanup and reclamation costs. The safety net created by Senate Bill 2070 provides a useful backstop by allocating funds specifically to this type of situation.

We therefore urge a **Do Pass** recommendation on Engrossed Senate Bill 2070. I would be happy to try to answer any questions.