North Dakota Township Officers Association
Promoting basic Grassroots Government!

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Senate Agriculture Committee

To oppose SB 2208

Greetings, Chairman Luick and Senate Agriculture Committee Members.

I am Larry Syverson the Executive Secretary of the North Dakota Township Officers Association. NDTOA represents the nearly 6,000 officers that serve 1,317 organized townships; those townships are responsible for more than 42,000 miles of maintained rural roads.

Townships need assessment drains and waterways to function to serve as outlets for field runoff and tile drainage, to move water in an orderly manner, and to reduce impact on road infrastructure and right-of-ways.

NDTOA has concerns about SB 2208 as written:

- Elimination of the snagging and clearing process in NDCC 61-16.1-09.1 which can impact the ability to reduce impact to culverts and bridges in a short timeframe when damage may be imminent.
- Bars water resource districts from utilizing annual levy funds in 61-16.1-45 to make any upgrade to legal drains (including simple improvements beyond original design specs like flattening side slopes or replacing culverts with larger culverts)
- Elimination of the existing 80-acre threshold for tile permitting while maintaining the same cumbersome tile permit process.
- Elimination of the process for drainage complaints

We feel some of the changes in this bill are anti-drainage and will make effective local management of water a greater challenge.

NDTOA opposes SB 2208 as written and asks that the committee give it a do not pass recommendation or amends it into a study of this complex vital matter. NDTOA would gladly review any amendment.

Thank you, Chairman Luick and Senate Agriculture Committee members for the chance to submit my testimony. My contact information is provided, and I would gladly reply to any questions from the committee.

Sincerely,

Larry Syverson

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