

February 2, 2023, Agriculture and Veteran's Affairs Committee

Chairman Luick and members of the Committee,

My name is Rebecca Phillips, and I am a small farmer and rancher and resident of Emmons County. In Emmons County, we have one staff member representing the ND State Soil Conservation District (SCD). I have an interest in conserving soils and have asked my local SCD for assistance that is commonly offered to farmers by SCDs in Burleigh County. However, in Emmons County, SCD resources are severely limited, and my requests could not be met. It appears there is a resource imbalance among counties that should be considered on a statewide scale, as described in HB2353.

Soil Conservation District Representatives will likely agree that certain counties need more support than others to effectively help us with soil conservation implementation measures. I support a survey and assessment of SCD resources and capabilities for each ND County. House Bill 2353 is the first step towards remedying discrepancies among Districts, so that all ND SCDs can more effectively serve rural farmers and ranchers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rebecca Phillips