

Hearing on SB 2210
House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
March 6, 2025

Testimony of Mark Staples, registered lobbyist for The Nature Conservancy in North Dakota

Chair Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

The Nature Conservancy has been working to help people and nature thrive for more than 70 years, including on-the-ground conservation in North Dakota since 1971. We work alongside private landowners, state and federal agencies, and nonprofit partners to restore and improve management of lands and waters.

The Nature Conservancy supports SB 2210 and appreciates the bill sponsor's interest in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of water management in North Dakota.

Water flows beyond political boundaries and management decisions should, too. Each of our neighboring states has adopted a system of water management that makes use of watershed boundaries rather than political lines. This affords them the ability to coordinate throughout their unique geography, make planning decisions that support local needs and long-term management goals, and best provide a high benefit-to-cost to for management actions given interconnectivity within watersheds, where upstream actions may benefit downstream areas and vice versa.

We urge the committee support this study on watershed-based management and give a Do Pass recommendation on SB 2210.