

TESTIMONY AGAINST SB 2267 by NORTH DAKOTA STATE PLUMBING BOARD

The North Dakota State Plumbing Board (NDSPB) is not interested at all in doing private sewage disposal system designs or inspections. We do not have the inspectors to do it, we do not have the office staff to do it, and more importantly we do not have any knowledge or experience in designing and inspecting septic tanks and drain field systems.

Plumbing installations and private sewage disposal system installations are two completely different disciplines. Why would North Dakota want to take private sewage disposal system licensure and inspections (and jobs) away from the local and district health units and force it on an entity of state government (NDSPB) that doesn't want it, and more importantly doesn't know anything about it?

This bill also tasks the Plumbing Board with promulgating rules for (PSDS) including writing and completing the private sewage disposal system technical guide (code book), which was never completed by an interim committee which had almost two years to work on it. Once again, how is the Plumbing Board supposed to write a technical guide (code book) on subject matter that we know nothing about?

If forced to take on this responsibility, it would have a huge financial impact on the Plumbing Board, from having to hire inspectors and office staff, to needing a larger office, vehicles, cell phones, computers, additions and modifications to our web site, and the list goes on. Even if installers paid a \$500 permit fee for each PSDS installation, that would still leave the Plumbing Board with a huge yearly budget deficit, which we would not be able to recover.

The local, county, and district health unit employees that are inspecting (PSDS) are environmental health specialists. They sample, test, and know the soil types in their area. They can also design systems in their area with regard to terrain, ground water levels, and take many other criteria into account when designing and inspecting these systems. The North Dakota State Plumbing Board does not wish to make itself a bigger state government entity with more regulatory authority, especially in a specialized area that we know nothing about.

I urge you to not support this bill, SB 2267

Brent Beechie Executive Director North Dakota State Plumbing Board