

House Testimony SB2276

Sam Wagner
Ag and Food Field Organizer
Dakota Resource Council
1902 E Divide Ave
Bismarck ND 58501
Opposition for SB2276

To the Ag and Veterans Committee,

Mr Chairman,

Our organization would like to start this out by saying that DRC supports the idea of creating watershed districts rather than relying on political boundaries makes good sense, but we wish to express some concerns that keep us from fully supporting this policy. With that in mind, we would like you to review SB2210 first and see if there is some way to combine the language of a sturdy before putting this bill into law. There are so many moving pieces to this legislation that we're not sure that they could be fully implemented by August 1st.

Some issues to consider:

- Do we need to dissolve the current county water resource boards?
- When would that need to take effect?
- How do the Sheds take over projects currently in development with the current county system?
- We would also ask who is going to cover the cost of this board?
- How will the members of it be appointed?
- How long will their terms be?
- When would they need to have elections or appointments submitted by?
- Do we give the budget money for the county water boards back to the county or do we have to put the remaining monies into a new account that the watershed district can access?
- What will happen to any litigation between citizens and water boards that would no longer exist?

These are not impossible questions to answer but implementing them effectively may take more time than we think. If you do not have all those answers yet please consider taking more time to flesh out these ideas. We would suggest starting the implementation on January 1st of 2026 to give a bit more time to flesh out the process.

If you cannot make sure that this has an implementation date of Jan 1st 2026 or later we urge **DO NOT PASS** and go with a study option first.