

Testimony of Troy Coons on behalf of
Northwest Landowners Association
in favor of
SENATE BILL NO. 2379
House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
March 13, 2025

Chairman Porters and members of the committee, thank you for taking my testimony into consideration today.

My name is Troy Coons and I am the Chairman of the Northwest Landowners Association. Northwest Landowners Association represents hundreds of farmers, ranchers, and property owners in North Dakota. Northwest Landowners Association is a nonprofit organization, and I am not a paid lobbyist.

We support SB 2379 because it creates an orderly process for these surveys to be conducted if the condemning authority is not able to obtain the landowner's permission. Sending surveyors and others out onto property owned by a landowner who has said no is not only offensive, but just not an orderly way to obtain access by force.

This law allows companies to access our property to conduct their surveys, and some of these surveys are done under federal environmental laws with findings reported to federal agencies. Some of them have significant soil borings. These can be intrusive surveys. Our understanding is that responsible developers do not object to obtaining a court order when they cannot obtain permission. We agree this is the best practice and ask for a DO PASS on SB 2379 for these reasons.

Thank you,

Troy Coons
Northwest Landowners Association