

Testimony SB2210

Sam Wagner
Ag and Food Field Organizer
Dakota Resource Council
1902 E Divide Ave
Bismarck ND 58501
Testimony in Support for SB2210

To the Senate Ag and Veterans Committee,

Mr Chairman,

We would like to start this out by saying that we support the idea of watershed districts being created rather than relying on political boundaries that make no sense when it comes to water. We would like to pose some questions for the study to consider. We would also like to ensure that any study that is being done be given transparency to the public including remote meetings for members of the public to observe the committee meetings. We were not afforded that opportunity for the Model Zoning Task Force.

- **Watershed Districts:**

What do these districts look like?

What happens if they cross state and international boundaries?

- **Elections or Appointments of officials**

Do we need to appoint or elect?

If there is a mechanism to vote on water projects, could it be possible to implement this system to elect board members to the respective districts?

How would that vote go if the district isn't subject to a political subdivision and who certifies the election?

If appointed, who would appoint? County or State?

Would there be any requirement for the person elected to the board to be a resident within the district or county they are being appointed to?

Can the public initiate a recall on their representative for misconduct?

- **Reimbursement Issues**

Board members would need to be paid for their services and reimbursed for their travel expenses.

What entity would foot the bill?

Is it the respective county, state, or will the watershed district have a budget of its own put forth by the counties?

Thank you for your Consideration and we urge a DO PASS