

**Comments in response to Rep. Marvin Nelson's presentation
to ECONOMIC IMPACT COMMITTEE about one call notification
system and soil testers**

11/19/15

Resubmitted 3/17/16

- **Soil sampling is critical to production agriculture today.**
 - Helps agronomists and farmers understand the soil's nutrient levels (such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium) as well as other soil characteristics including soil pH, calcium carbonate content, salinity and sodicity levels.
 - Farmers and agronomists use soil sampling data to create fertilizer recommendations. Therefore, soil sampling is **critical to the economic viability as well the environmental integrity of North Dakota farming operations.**

- **Soil sampling is a well-adopted farming practice and has scientific standard protocols.**
 - Most soil cores are sampled to a 2' depth. This depth is critical and standard for producing nitrogen information for fertilizer decisions
 - Sugarbeets require a 4' sampling depth. The nitrogen information from this deeper depth is critical for managing the sugar content of the root.
 - A conventional composite soil sample requires approximately 20-25 soil cores for a 150 acre field. A field which is zone sampled requires approximately 10 cores per zone and usually 3-5 zones per field. A grid sample requires approximately 10 cores per grid and a field has a grid every 2.5 acres.
 - **71% of my client's fields were sampled during the fall of 2015.**

- **It will be very challenging for North Dakota One-Call to complete surveys prior to sampling in a timely manner. Furthermore, the logistics will be very difficult and expensive.**
 - The majority of the soil sampling season occurs in the fall of the year and usually between the months of August and middle of November. Depending on the weather, the soil sampling season can last from approximately 6 weeks and up to 4 months.
 - **Is it possible for ND One-Call to annually survey 60-70% of all the fields in North Dakota within 3 months?**
 - North Dakota One-Call will have to hire significantly more employees and buy more equipment.

- For these reasons it is **not** a good idea for farmers and agronomists to be required to notify ND One-Call prior to soil sampling a field

Respectfully Submitted:
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