

GREATER  
*McKenzie County*  
 STEWARDSHIP GROUP

Date: March 17, 2016

To: Chairman Triplett and interim legislative committee members of the Economic Impact Committee

RE: Interested persons comments regarding potential improvements in operation of the one-call excavation notice system

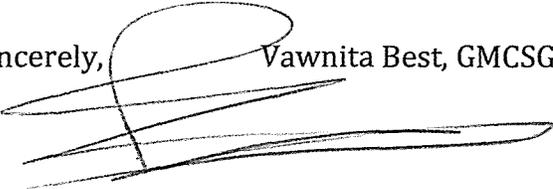
Chairman Triplett and Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on possible improvements to the current 8-1-1 one-call excavation notice system. My name is Vawnita Best and I am here today representing the GMCSG. Our approximately 40 members are landowners and operators in the McKenzie County area who are stewards of roughly 100,000 surface acres.

We currently support two improvement areas that we feel will ease the burden of underground utility easement management for surface owners and operators with the goal of enhancing future opportunity for easement attainment.

1. Make change to NDCC 49-23-05, removing the terminology of "Excavator" and replacing it with "Ticket Holder" as the responsible individuals for removing tangible markers. This change will provide incentive for more robust white lining activities and survey ticket activities (for land sales verification and project development planning).
2. Create an accountability system for the ticket holder's removal of tangible marking materials. This system would function most successfully through a fining system and/or invoices system that creates incentive for the removal of tangible marking materials by the ticket holder rather than abandonment of those marking materials.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide ideas for potential improvements to the operation of the one-call excavation notice system that will ease the burden of 'landowner fatigue' in areas of North Dakota where underground utility infrastructure access is critical.

Sincerely,  Vawnita Best, GMCSG Chairperson

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