

Chairman Headland and members of the committee,

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony. My name is Lisa DeVille, I am an enrolled citizen of the Mandan Hidatsa Arikara (MHA) Nation, and a resident of Mandaree, ND, and I write to oppose 2319 as amended.

Fort Berthold lost 70% of its oil and gas revenue in 2020 and that doesn't include the tax revenue that should have been shared from straddle wells since 2008, estimated to be over 200 million dollars since that time.

The language of the original bill would have corrected the unfair and inequitable practice of the current tax revenue sharing policy regarding straddle wells. The MHA Nation should not be used as a negotiator for the ND or the US government to get to previously protected or inaccessible lands. We must protect our ancient, historical, and traditional sites.

Since the beginning of the oil and gas extraction Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara people have been treated unfairly and given unequal royalties. History shows that laws are always in favor of the European white man and their greed. We were promised wealth but paid for it with the destruction of the only land we have left. Though our land has been taken and laws were created to silence us when we peacefully protest to protect our land which is our identity as Indigenous people – we are still here.

We must protect the remaining lands of the MHA Nation including our spiritual sites from being destroyed through the oil and gas development that the either amendment would require. The tax revenue from the straddle wells should be equitably shared without having any requirements to get access to lands special to MHA Nation. The original, unamended language of the bill should be what should be adopted.

I urge a do not pass vote for 2319 as amended.

Thank you,

Lisa DeVille

Mandaree, ND