

Troy Coons
Northwest Landowners Association
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Testimony for SB 2065
January 8, 2021



Good afternoon, Senator Kreun 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 over 560 farmers, ranchers, and property owners in North Dakota. Northwest Landowners Association is a nonprofit organization, and I am not a paid lobbyist.

I am here to testify in support of SB 2065. Our organization has always prided itself on working cooperatively with energy developers. We appreciate that this legislation ensures that the owners of the pore space have a say in the development of their property, and also recognizes the right to equitable compensation when their property is being used by others, sometimes against their will.

Landowners are also very aware of the need for solutions to the flaring of natural gas. Flaring natural gas is an unfortunate loss of a natural resource, and it is also one of the main complaints many landowners have who live near oil wells. We appreciate the efforts to find new solutions that help avoid flaring.

Senate Bill 2065 is modeled after prior legislation related to carbon dioxide sequestration. This legislation came from a study and working group made up of all stakeholders, and the end result is an excellent reflection of the cooperative nature of that effort. We hope to see more legislation like this bill that recognizes everyone's rights and attempts to find solutions to problems without making one stakeholder bear the entire cost.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Troy Coons', is located below the 'Sincerely,' text.

Troy Coons, Chairman
Northwest Landowners Association