



Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Testimony on SB 2144

North Dakota Game and Fish Department
Terry Steinwand, Director
January 14, 2021

Chairman Kreun and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Terry Steinwand and I'm Director of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. I'm here today to testify in support of SB 2144.

This bill addresses both criminal trespass and hunting trespass, both of which have been contentious issues over the years. I'm only going to address those portions of the bill that relate to hunters, anglers, and trappers today. This bill is similar to SB 2037 but defines 'fence' and excludes licensed hunters and anglers so long as they are lawfully hunting or fishing, which is important to the sporting community. The issue of hunting trespass is, and has been, extremely important to hunters and anglers and we believe the option of electronically posting land for hunting trespass is a very good example of a collaborative solution. Each time a bill on hunting trespass was filed in past sessions, landowners stated on issue of concern was the time and expense of placing signs around their property and sportsmen/women stated they just wanted to know who to contact. This bill addresses both sets of questions.

Gratitude has to go to Senator Erbele for leading the Interim Natural Resources Committee and working with the agriculture and sporting community to craft this bill. It may create a little confusion initially since I have received several calls over the last two weeks from landowners asking if this were the only way they could post their land in the future. I have informed them that physical posting is still allowed but electronic posting provides another option for landowners.

Rather than reiterate talking points that Brian Hosek mentioned in the testimony he provided in the Department's support of SB 2038, I will simply say they are also valid for what the hunting trespass portion of SB 2144 will or does accomplish.

For the above reasons, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department supports the passage of SB 2144 and recommends a DO PASS vote.