

Testimony
Senate Bill 2052
Senate Industry, Business and Labor Committee
Monday, January 18, 2021
North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality

Good afternoon Chairman Lefor and members of the Senate Industry, Business and Labor Committee. I am David Glatt, Director of the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The DEQ is the primary agency responsible for the implementation of environmental protection programs in the state. I am here today to testify in support of Senate Bill 2052.

Senate Bill 2052 proposes an increase of the certificate fee for the Boiler Inspection Program. The Boiler Inspection Program is responsible for the routine independent inspection of boilers that, in part, service industry, multiple dwelling buildings and governmental facilities. The four inspectors located in Bismarck and Fargo ensure the integrity and safety of boilers.

During the sixty-sixth legislative assembly, HB1024 transferred the Boiler Inspection Program from the Insurance Department to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). During the bill discussion, it was noted that the revenue generated by the Boiler Inspection Program was not sufficient to cover program expenditures. Therefore, language was added in the bill which stated that the Department should evaluate the Boiler Inspection Program during the 2019-20 interim and develop a program fee plan to meet program expenses. The DEQ reviewed the Boiler Inspection program revenue sources and program expenditures and determined the program needed to increase the inspection fee rates and certificate fee.

The inspection fees, separate from the boiler certificate fees, are set in the Boiler Inspection Program Rules, Administrative Code Article 33.1-14. The Department amended the rules to increase the inspection fees, which were effective July 1, 2020. Senate Bill 2052 proposes to increase the boiler certificate fee from twenty dollars per certificate year to thirty-five dollars per certificate year. The increase in the certificate fee along with the increase of the inspection fee will meet the legislative intent per the sixty-sixth legislative assembly HB1024. Please note, the last time the boiler certificate fee was increased was July 1, 2011. This concludes my testimony on Senate Bill 2052. I stand for questions.