

TESTIMONY OF

Jim Semerad, Director of Air Quality

Good morning Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Jim Semerad and I am the Air Quality Division Director for the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The DEQ is responsible for the implementation of many environmental protection programs in the state. I am here to testify in support of SB 2237.

The majority of the DEQ environmental laws and rules are mirror images of federal requirements and, by design, are no more stringent. In very few instances where no federal requirements or federal regulations address a state-specific environmental or public health concern, state regulations have been adopted. Prior to adoption, proposed regulations have gone through a rigorous public review and comment process. These rules have allowed the state to address environmental issues at the state level, avoiding federal intervention. An example would be the regulation of some air emissions in the oil patch.

In the rare instances of the need to adopt rules that address environmental or public health concerns that are not addressed by the federal government, we support the review and adoption process as laid out in NDCC 23.1-06-07.

We support SB 2237 without amendments.

This concludes my testimony and I will stand for any questions from the committee.