

Testimony
House Bill 1182
Senate Political Subdivisions Committee
March 13, 2015; 9 a.m.
North Dakota Department of Health

Good morning , Chairman Burckhard and members of the Senate Political Subdivisions Committee. My name is Wayne Kern, and I am Director of the North Dakota Department of Health's Division of Municipal Facilities, which is part of the Environmental Health Section. I am here to provide testimony in support of Section 3 of engrossed House Bill 1182.

Section 3 of engrossed House Bill 1182 proposes an interim legislative management study. The study would address current state law requirements for public improvement projects pertaining to use of single and multiple prime bids, bidding thresholds, design service thresholds, and indemnification. It is important to note that the current requirements resulted from legislation introduced in 2007. The legislation came from an interim committee study that used a collaborative process involving input from a broad array of stakeholders. A similar study is proposed in SB 2246.

Several bills have been introduced this session proposing changes to current state law requirements for public improvement projects. These changes need to be coordinated and further evaluated as to their consequences. Deferring these issues to an interim study would enable lawmakers to thoroughly evaluate current requirements and gather input from stakeholders on possible changes. The result may be one bill draft that addresses and balances pertinent issues and has stakeholder support. In summary, the Department supports Section 3 of engrossed House Bill 1182.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you have at this time.