

Gentlemen,

Thank you for your time today. I'm sure you realize the decisions this Task Force makes will have as much economic effect on this state as any decisions ever made.

My son and I farm about 4000 acres in Sanborn and Davison counties. We have spent a lot of time helping these counties develop drainage ordinances.

I was a spokesman for the Davison County Farmers for Fair Drainage. We like state law the way it currently is. Between state law and our pro drainage county ordinances we feel we have a good system. We do not want to see state and local laws become so cumbersome that they impair or stop beneficial drainage. We feel we have rights as land owners to improve and drain our land. If these rights are encumbered or taken away we believe state and federal law shows we should be compensated.

We are concerned with all laws that burden or stop beneficial drainage. State law seems in general to say water runs downhill and that we can drain as long as we do not cause undue hardship on our neighbors. We feel this is a good policy.

One concern I would like to mention is drainage of nuisance spots. Because of the shortage of qualified labor and modern technology farm machinery is getting bigger. When we are using 100 ft sprayer or a 24 row planter it is very difficult to turn for a 50 ft pot hole, or when we do turn it causes fertilizer and chemical overlaps, which is bad for everyone. These nuisance spots in our area are causing salinity to grow around them rendering them useless. These areas used to be fertile when this ground was prairie because the grass grew more months out of each year than crops do. What makes the problem worse in many places is that natural drainage ways are filling in and roads and culverts are slowing or blocking the water ways.

On our farm we only have two pot holes over 1/10 of an acre that hold water any length of time and we know other farms have this same problem. So we strongly urge this Task Force not to do anything to hinder the drainage of these nuisance spots.

David Estabrook