**DAKOTA RESOURCE COUNCIL**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Landowners work to increase setback from oil wells near homes**

*Going to Bismarck for hearing to amend legislation*

BISMARCK, ND---Landowners from western North Dakota are headed to Bismarck on Thursday to support increasing the setback for oil wells drilled near people’s homes.

“It is important for people to get their feelings heard and known so elected officials can best represent us in the oil country,” said Sharon Anderson of Powers Lake and a member of Dakota Resource Council.

Anderson and some of her neighbors will be going to Bismarck to the hearing on HB 1348 on Thursday, March 28 at 2:30 in the Fort Lincoln Room at the State Capitol. While some will testify, others will make the trip to be there in the hearing room to show support.

The bill (HB 1348) originally would have increased the setback from 500 feet to a quarter mile or 1,320 feet. The bill was weakened with an amendment that keeps the setback at 500 feet and states that the Industrial Commission could rule on putting equipment and flares on the opposite side of well pads less than 1,000 feet from a home.

Many landowners say the current language of the bill shows that legislators haven’t listened to them. They will travel to Bismarck to ask the Senate Natural Resources Committee to amend the bill to increase the setback to 1,000 feet.

According to research provided at the first hearing, it is possible to have oil development with wells further from homes. In oil-producing parts of Texas the oil well setbacks are as much as 2,000 feet from homes.

For more information about the setback bill and the hearing, contact Renae Evensvold, DRC organizer in Powers Lake, at renae@drcinfo.com, 701-261-3423 or Sean Arithson, sean@drcinfo.com, 701-202-3488.

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