

DRC WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

JANUARY 9, 2009

About the Update

- This update will be available on the DRC website, www.drcinfo.com, each Friday afternoon during the 2009 legislative session.
- If you'd like to get a copy sent to you by either e-mail or surface mail, call the DRC office at 483-2851
- The purpose of the weekly update is to keep you informed about the progress of bills supported or opposed by DRC and to tell you when action on your part is most important.

How to Contact Your Legislators

- If you are unsure what district you live in, check the legislative map on the DRC website at www.drcinfo.com, or call your County Auditor.
- The DRC website also will link you to the North Dakota website, www.state.nd.us, where you can find out who your state legislators are, what committees they serve on, and how to contact them.
- The best way to reach your legislators during the week is through the Call Center at the State Capitol. The toll-free phone number is 1-888-635-3447.
- You can also e-mail your legislator, or call him or her at home on the weekends. Please note that some legislators use e-mail much more extensively than others, and that e-mail correspondence often works best in combination with phone calls.
- The state website also provides information on committee membership. These committees are very important because every bill is assigned to a committee and has a public hearing. Committees usually recommend that a bill either pass or be defeated in the full Senate or House, and their recommendation is taken very seriously.

DRC's Lobby Team

- Our chief lobbyist for the session is again Energy Coordinator Mary Mitchell, (mary@drcinfo.com). She will be monitoring all legislation but will be focusing on local foods, renewable energy and coal related bills. You can reach her by phone at 224-8587 or 226-4123. Call her with general questions you have about legislation. You can reach Staff Director Mark Trechock, (mark@drcinfo.com) in Dickinson as well. If you are seeking information on a specific bill in the legislature, start by contacting the organizer you usually work with on the issue.
- Organizer Cindy Klein (cindy@drcinfo.com) at 483-2851 is covering the oil and gas bills and any bills relating to trade and livestock.
- Fargo-based organizers Lynn Wolff (lynn@drcinfo.com), 298-8685, is covering legislation related to extraterritorial authority.

DRC Citizen Action Committee (CAC)

- This is a standing committee. During the legislative session it holds frequent conference calls to make decisions on DRC lobbying strategy. If you are interested in participating, please contact Mary Mitchell in the Bismarck office at 701-224-8587 or e-mail at mary@drcinfo.com.

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Legislation we are introducing:

DRC is working to introduce several bills this session:

- A local foods procurement bill;
- Several bills related to water use in the oilfields;
- A bill to would ensure that the USDA's National Animal Identification System (NAIS) remains a voluntary system;
- A bill to repeal the state's law prohibiting the Public Service Commission from considering the costs of carbon from new power facilities.

We expect that there will be a bill introduced relating to the use of money from the state's Resource Trust Fund for energy efficiency projects, therefore we are holding off introducing our own.

Cindy and Mary were up at the capitol and had a fair amount of success this week finding sponsors and co-sponsors for some of the aforementioned bills.

Bills heard in the past week:

- **SB 2140** (Senate Natural Resources Committee, at the request of the Public Service Commission), This bill would allow coal mining companies to use a 5 year revegetation period for lands that were mined prior to 1970 then re-mined, versus the 10 year period required for other mined lands. The committee took no action on the bill.
- **SB 2141** (Senate Natural Resources Committee, at the request of the Industrial Commission), This bill adds language to the century code to provide for surface owner protections, inspections, fines and water protections for mineral development, such as uranium mining. The state Health Department asked for an amendment to the bill that would allow only a state agency, a landowner or adjacent landowner to request investigation of a concern. The committee took no action on this bill.

Bills to be heard next week:

- **HB 1033** (Legislative Council at the request of the Energy Development and Transmission Committee), would reduce the Public Service Commission's timeframe for permitting transmission lines from 6 months to only 3 months. DRC opposes this bill. **House Natural Resources Committee, Pioneer Room, Friday, January 19, 11 a.m.**
- **HB 2129** (Agriculture Committee at the request of the Industrial Commission), would allow the Industrial Commission to fund incentive programs relating to biomass production harvest, storage and delivery. DRC supports this bill. **Senate Agriculture Committee, Roosevelt Park Room, Friday, January 16, 9 a.m.**
- **SB 2139** (Senate Natural Resources Committee, at the request of the Industrial Commission), This hearing was postponed a week because the committee chair needed more information about this issue. This bill would make pore space, which is microscopic pockets in certain layers of earth that could be used for carbon dioxide storage, the property of the surface owner, and says that it may not be severed from surface ownership. **Senate Natural Resources Committee, Fort Lincoln Room, Friday January 16, 9 a.m.**
- **SB 2095** (Natural Resources Committee at the request of the Industrial Commission), would set up a regulatory structure for the geologic storage of carbon dioxide. **Senate Natural Resources Committee, Fort Lincoln Room, Friday January 16, 9 a.m.**

