

## **DRC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

### **APRIL 24, 2009**

- **SB 2141: Landowner protections for mineral development** In conference committee, the House receded from amendments that the Senate would not agree to, which would have given landowners stronger protections and the Senate and House both unanimously adopted the conference committee report. DRC did not take a position on this bill.
  
- **SB 2438 “Sustainably Grown in ND”**, passed the Senate 36-9 after being reconsidered after failing April 17 on a tie vote 21-21. The bill would require the Department of Commerce to implement a program to promote North Dakota agriculture commodities that meet certain criteria, however the criteria are broad and sound suspiciously similar to claims that Monsanto makes about its genetically modified products. The bill would also set up a committee to run the program and allow it to accept gifts of money and things, which would be passed on to the Ag Commissioner to use in running the program.
  
- **HB 1322 State Energy Policy Commission** The Senate receded from amendments in conference committee and Senate voted unanimously to pass the bill. The bill would create a new energy policy commission made up largely of industry reps. The bill also directs the state water commission to study the state’s water resources in order to maximize water use for energy growth. The House cut out a study that focuses on issues related to taxation of the energy industries in this state. Another amendment added a member of the Public Service Commission as part of the energy policy commission. DRC supported the water study.