

My name is Lisa DeVille and I am a wife, mother, and grandmother. I am an enrolled member of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation. I am also the state representative for ND district (4a) serving all of Fort Berthold Reservation where I live.

Living in the front lines of the Bakken oil and gas field I have witnessed the environmental, health, and social impacts that have changed our way of life.

My reservation has more than 2600 producing oil and gas wells, almost all of which have been drilled within the last 15 years. In 15-20 years many of these wells will need to be reclaimed, I was raised to think about and protect our future generations which is why improved bonding and reclamation standards are imperative. When I was a little girl, my grandmother showed me where wild berries grew, where turkeys and deer lived, and how to harvest and use plants for medicine. Many of those places have been disturbed because of the oil and gas activity going on right now. Strong bonding and reclamation rules will help the land heal so that my children and grandchildren can know the land as I did when I was a kid.

We need stronger laws at the federal level to ensure wells on federal and tribal lands are reclaimed and taxpayers including tribal members do not have to foot the bill. The federal government has a trust responsibility to take care of the land and the people. Without stronger rules, that trust responsibility will not be met.

On my reservation and in areas adjacent to or near public lands there are landowners that own the surface and not the minerals. As a result, these individuals get the impacts of an old leaky oil well, without any monetary benefit. Improved bonding and reclamation standards are needed to protect split estate landowners from future impacts. It's a matter of Justice and fairness, not just right now but for the generations to come.

Thank you. Lisa DeVille, VP President, Mandaree,ND