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ALSO ADMITTED IN MINNESOTA AND MONTANAFILED  
IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
OCTOBER 2, 2017  
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

October 2, 2017

*via E-mail:* [supclerkofcourt@ndcourts.gov](mailto:supclerkofcourt@ndcourts.gov)Penny L. Miller  
Clerk of the Supreme Court  
North Dakota Supreme Court  
Judicial Wing, First Floor  
600 E. Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0530

Re: *Comment of Tim Purdon, In the Matter of a Petition to Terminate the Special Provisions of Legal Services by Qualified Attorneys From Outside North Dakota, Supreme Court No. 20160436*

Dear Clerk Miller:

I was one of the North Dakota attorneys who signed the December 14, 2016 *Petition to Permit Temporary Provision of Legal Services by Qualified Attorneys from Outside North Dakota*. As you know, the North Dakota Supreme Court amended its Admission to Practice Rules on January 18, 2017 and relaxed its procedures for the temporary admission of lawyers Pro Hac Vice to provide pro bono legal services to those arrested in the DAPL protest. I was extremely proud to be a member of the North Dakota Bar that day and proud of the Court's action to protect the Right to Counsel.

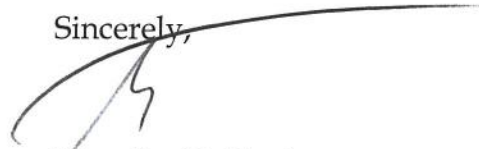
I now write to comment on the *Petition to Terminate the Special Provisions of Legal Services by Qualified Attorneys From Outside North Dakota* filed September 11, 2017.

I have reviewed the September 18, 2017 comment filed by Sarah Vogel, a co-signatory on the original December 14, 2016 Petition. I concur whole heartedly with Ms. Vogel that the court system in North Dakota has been a bright spot in North Dakota's response to the DAPL controversies. This Court's decision to allow out of state lawyers to represent DAPL defendants under relaxed Admission to Practice rules and the rulings of many District Court Judges in DAPL cases have sent a strong message that the North Dakota Judicial Branch remains committed to the Right to Counsel, the constitutional protections afforded to criminal defendants, and to the rule of law. To end the special procedures for out of state attorneys to assist in DAPL cases at this point, before that work is completed, will

muddy and weaken this strong message of commitment to the Right to Counsel from the North Dakota Supreme Court. The Court should keep these special provisions in place until all (or a very high majority) of DAPL related cases are resolved.

Thank you for your consideration of my comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping loop followed by a vertical line and a small hook at the bottom.

Timothy Q. Purdon