

Testimony by John Leininger, Chairman of the Board  
**Garrison Diversion Conservancy District**

To the

**Water-Related Topics Overview Committee**

Bismarck, North Dakota  
October 9, 2012

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee; my name is John Leininger, and I serve as Chairman of the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District Board of Directors. I represent Griggs County, and I am here to urge you to remove the sunset clause from HB1318.

We have seen an increase in demand for irrigation development from the McClusky Canal over the past year. Several interested farmers have contacted the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District and would like to develop irrigation in multiple areas. By removing the sunset from the Special Assessment Authority, the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District could continue to help fund the central supply project, enabling irrigation water to reach further away from the canal than a standard pump. Additional irrigation development will only benefit North Dakota.

When issuing a revenue bond for the first phase of the McClusky Canal Irrigation Project, the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District maximized our collateral on the bond, making it difficult to fund additional irrigation projects. The Special Assessment Authority would allow the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District to continue to assist farmers in developing their irrigation

projects by assessing participants' land in order to fund the central supply project. Only farmers who choose to participate in a project will be affected.

The Special Assessment Authority is set to sunset in 2013. I support the removal of the sunset clause, as the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District continues to work with farmers as they develop irrigation projects that would benefit from the Special Assessment Authority.

Thank you for allowing my testimony to be heard today.