

Testimony by Theodore Renner Jr.
On behalf of the
Southwest Pipeline Project
to the
Senate Appropriations Committee
House Bill 1020

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Theodore (Ted) Renner. I'm submitting this written testimony as the Billings County District Foreman for roads in District 2. With my job responsibilities, quality water is key. It is essential to maintaining roadways especially during dry years, as we are experiencing now. Without the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP), we could not fill the several 5,000-gallon tanks we use to do our jobs such as with road maintenance. Perhaps even more important is the fire department could not rely on loading their grass-unit tankers with quality water. For without the availability of water we get from the SWPP, neither of these important services would be reliable.

Over 30-years ago, I remember helping my father-in-law with his backhoe service. We pulled a lot of wells in rural communities in southwest North Dakota. We pulled countless number of wells that were rusted or covered in calcium build-up and sediment. The number of ruined household water appliances that needed to be replaced due the poor-quality water in the southwest were not unusual. Mineral laden water, as is so common in the area, quickly ruins faucets, dish washers, clothes washers, toilets, hot-water heaters, and showers heads. Basically any water appliance that comes in contact with corrosive water from groundwater in the region does not last long. Also, washing white clothes in mineral laden water never comes out looking clean. There is no end to what poor quality water can do to household water appliances.

Yet, just like the roads funding for water infrastructure needs to be maintained which means continued funding both for those connected and those still waiting. Today over 5,000 people are now on the SWPP, yet there are hundreds of people signed up and waiting to connect.

Funding the SWPP is an essential investment in the health and welfare of residents in southwestern North Dakota. Therefore, I ask that you continue your support of the SWPP and House Bill 1020.

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