

Testimony of Merri Mooridian, Administrative Officer

Garrison Diversion Conservancy District

HB 1431

Senate Appropriations

Bismarck, North Dakota – March 31, 2021

Hello Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1431. My name is Merri Mooridian, and I am the Administrative Officer for the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion). Garrison Diversion is a cosponsor of the Red River Valley Water Supply Project with the Lake Agassiz Water Authority (Lake Agassiz).

Investing in North Dakota's resiliency and future through large infrastructure projects will positively impact the state, and economic benefits will be realized over time. For instance, the Red River Water Supply Project is a large, multigenerational infrastructure project crucial to protecting North Dakota from the harmful and costly effects of moderate and severe droughts. When completed, it will have the ability to save the State approximately \$32 billion in economic impact over the course of a 10-year severe drought.

Garrison Diversion fully supports bonding for large multi-generational projects. These projects will be used for generations to come and bonding for these projects makes fiscal sense.

Thank you, Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee.