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Senate Finance and Taxation Committee

House Bill 1380 Committee Hearing March 17, 2021

Testimony of David Lang, North Dakota Water Users Association

Chair Bell and members of the Senate Finance and Tax Committee. I am David Lang and I serve as the President of the North Dakota Water Users Association. The North Dakota Water Users Association supports passage of House Bill 1380.

The Water Users Association was organized in 1959 to protect, develop, and manage North Dakota's water resources. It is currently comprised of over 300 local, statewide and regional organizations in North Dakota who have an active interest in water. We work closely with the North Dakota Water Coalition to build consensus within the water community regarding funding needs and priorities. Collaboration is essential in meeting the water resource management needs of North Dakota.

The North Dakota Water Users Association supports House Bill 1380 as it identifies Legacy Fund earnings as the 'pay-for' for the bonds authorized in HB 1431. As discussed in previous testimony, we believe using Legacy Fund earnings as payment for bonds for important water projects is an innovative way of meeting the state's commitment to support water infrastructure in North Dakota.

We appreciate the state's long-standing commitment to fund water projects and urge your continued support of North Dakota's water infrastructure financing through passage of House Bill 1380.