

Testimony by Jennifer Grosz
On behalf of the
Southwest Pipeline Project
to the
House Appropriations Committee
Education and Environment Subcommittee
Hearing on House Bill 1020
January 11, 2021

January 7, 2021

Dear Committee Members:

Hello from western North Dakota. My name is Jennifer Grosz, and I'm a lifelong North Dakota resident, and have lived and benefitted from the Southwest Water Authority and the Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) for the past 15 years. This is because I live in Dickinson, which receives its water from the Southwest Pipeline Project.

Personally, I enjoy the benefits of the SWPP through my daily household and business use. As a Dickinson resident, my water is provided to the City of Dickinson through the SWPP. This water is reliable, clean, odorless, and tastes good! As a city girl, I took this for granted and didn't know that this was a blessing. That changed when my parents moved to Brush Lake, North Dakota and had to dig a well for water. When visiting them, I was shocked at their water quality. It smells, leaves stains and cannot be drunk from the tap. They were so excited when their regional water pipeline extended its service to their area and provide them with access to clean, reliable and good tasting water.

I, along with four partners, own a law firm in Dickinson. This business is also served by SWPP through the City of Dickinson, so my business also directly benefits from the SWPP. As a lawyer, I have clients all over southwest North Dakota and hear their stories and challenges. They talk with me about how important access to water is to them, and how they are eager to be able to tap the SWPP or have it come to their area and be able to secure an allotment from it. You would be surprised how often this comes up. I just completed a real estate sale, where one of the key selling points was access to the SWPP, and a tap on the line.

Western North Dakota is very dry, averaging between 10-14" of precipitation annually. As such, water is a precious resource. Having a reliable source of water is essential to my rural and ranching clients, so they can continue on with their operations and have this legacy to pass on to generations to come.

Funding SWPP is an investment in western North Dakota's future, its economic wellbeing and the quality of life of its citizens. I ask that you continue your support of this vital infrastructure that benefits so many people in all aspects of their lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Grosz", written over the printed name.

Jennifer Grosz
Dickinson, ND
jgrosz@ndlaw.com