



City of Mandan Administration

Senate Appropriations Committee

HB 1020

Senator Ray Holmberg, Chair

March 22, 2021

Chairman Holmberg, Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, my name is Jim Neubauer I am the City Administrator for Mandan and online is Bill Robinson the Chair of the Lower Heart Water Resources District. We are submitting this testimony in support of HB 1020.

The Lower Heart Water Resource District's primary responsibility is assuring the Lower Heart River Levee System operates to successfully provide real and recognized flood protection to the City of Mandan and surrounding areas. The Hurricane Katrina event in 2005 resulted in the United States Government through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) updating requirements for meeting federal levee safety standards. Due to these updated requirements and a subsequent FEMA hydrologic and hydraulic analysis, the Lower Heart River Levee System was determined to be out of compliance of these new standards. Meeting these standards is imperative for the economic well-being of our community as being out of compliance will invoke flood insurance requirements on over 4,100 residential, commercial, and industrial properties. These requirements result in an estimated **\$9.6 million direct economic burden annually** on our citizens, not to mention the additional secondary economic and social impacts.

We are currently designing remediation work on the levee system to bring it up to current federal standards and maintain FEMA accreditation. The State of North Dakota through the North Dakota State Water Commission has been a valuable, and absolutely necessary, partner to complete the work required to maintain FEMA accreditation and avoid the economic and social impacts of de-accreditation. Below are some pertinent information bullets on the project and its status:

- 4,100 commercial, industrial, and residential properties at risk.
- \$9.6 million in estimated *annual* flood insurance requirements if de-accredited.
- \$18 million estimated project cost remaining (construction and administration).
- \$9.3 million estimated need from the North Dakota State Water Commission in 2021-23 biennium.
- Pursuing local funding (\$8.6 million) through water resources district assessment of benefitted properties (NDCC 61-16.1).
- Major project features:
 - Localized levee raises and raise of Lower Unit levee segment protecting the Lakewood residential area
 - Geotechnical work including stability berm installation and seepage remediation
 - Interior drainage improvements and replacements (pump station)
 - Floodwall replacement
- Project schedule
 - Design and FEMA conditional approval through early 2022.
 - Construction initiation in middle of 2022 with an anticipated 1 to 2 year construction duration.

Thank for your consideration of our testimony in support of HB 1020. We would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have regarding this testimony.

Thank you.