

TESTIMONY OF

Beth Jacobson, Grants & Contracts Officer

Good morning Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriation Committee. My name is Beth Jacobson and I am the Grants and Contracts Officer for the Department of Environmental Quality.

In House Bill 1395, the Department is appropriated \$745,000 of Coronavirus Relief Funds. A majority of the funds are appropriated for the COVID-19 Wastewater Sampling project. To date, the Department has expended \$634,555 of these funds and the remaining funds have been obligated via a contract with North Dakota State University with an invoice pending.

At this time, the Department would like to request additional appropriation authority of \$1,500,000 of the unspent Coronavirus Relief Funding to continue the COVID-19 Wastewater Sampling project for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. Of the \$1,500,000 we would request \$750,000 for the 2019-21 biennium which would be in the Operating Line to contract with North Dakota State University (NDSU) for testing of the wastewater samples.

For the 2021-23 biennium we are requesting appropriation authority of \$750,000 of which \$700,000 is in the Operating Line for shipping of samples, supplies and a contract with NDSU for wastewater testing. In the Grant line we are requesting \$50,000 for a contract with NDSU to coordinate sampling and project oversight. The additional funding will allow the Department to continue the sampling of wastewater for COVID-19 and could allow for the monitoring of variants.

	2019-21	2021-23	Total
Operating Expense	750,000	700,000	1,450,000
Grants		50,000	50,000
Total	750,000	750,000	1,500,000

Chairman Homberg and members of the Committee, this concludes my testimony. I ask for your support in our request of additional appropriation authority in House Bill 1395. I would be happy to answer any questions.