

Testimony by Randall Binegar
On behalf of the
Southwest Pipeline Project
to the
House Appropriations Committee
Hearing on Senate Bill 2020

March 9, 2023

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Randall Binegar, and I'm a lifelong North Dakota Resident, growing up mainly in Bismarck. I am currently the President of the Heart Butte Association where I represent the cabin owners at Lake Tschida, located about 15 miles south of Glen Ullin.

In the 1970's when I was a teenager, I visited a friend's lake cabin at Lake Tschida. After a hot summer's day of enjoying the lake, I vowed to myself I too would own a lake cabin before my first-born child would turn eight years-old. In 1993 we bought a small trailer on Lake Tschida. My oldest child turned eight that year.

There are many water wells at varying depths around lake Tschida that serve the more than 200 cabins but none of them produce a water whose quality is sufficient for drinking. So, cabin owners haul water to the lake. For 30 years, I have been hauling our water weekly to Lake Tschida from Bismarck. Now that I'm into my 60's, this task is growing more difficult. Some families around the lake have been hauling their drinking water for multiple generations going back to the 1950's.

The prospect of having fresh clean drinking water supplied by the Southwest Pipeline Project to Lake Tschida has cabin owners around the lake very excited. Clothes can be washed without staining them. Cabin owners can open their cabins earlier in the year and stay longer in the fall because many of the shared well systems are not installed to prevent freezing, whereas the Southwest Pipeline Project can be installed in a manner that will not allow the water lines to freeze.

As the southwestern portion of the United States' water supply becomes severely threatened by drought, the possibility of Missouri River waters being diverted to this area becomes a reality. This increases the urgency of putting North Dakota's Missouri River water, which is the source for the Southwest Pipeline Project, to beneficial use before National priorities lay claim to this water. By expanding and enhancing the Southwest Water Supply Project now, we are

securing our right to Missouri River water before other areas of the country can secure these water rights.

The water provided by the Southwest Pipeline Project is reliable, clean, clear, odorless, and tastes good. Water is a precious resource vital to life. Having a reliable source of water is essential to the future of all of North Dakota. Funding the Southwest Pipeline Project 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,

Randall Binegar
Bismarck, ND
randy.binegar@yahoo.com