

Senate Bill 2020
House Appropriations Committee – Education & Environment Division
Bismarck, North Dakota – March 9, 2023

Testimony of Duane DeKrey
Garrison Diversion Conservancy District Board Chairman

Hello Chairman Nathe and members of the House Appropriations Committee Education and Environment Division. My name is Duane DeKrey and I am the General Manger of the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion). I am here to testify in support of funding for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project in Senate Bill 2020 - the Department of Water Resources budget.

The State of North Dakota has been a vital partner thus far in the development of the Project that will deliver water from the Missouri River to central and eastern North Dakota via a buried pipeline. Garrison Diversion is extremely grateful for the inclusion of \$953 million in legislative intent for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project within the Department of Water Resources budget. This funding shows the State is committed to helping Garrison Diversion and Lake Agassiz provide drought protection to about half of the State's population.

Garrison Diversion and Lake Agassiz Water Authority (Lake Agassiz) are the state cosponsors of the Red River Valley Water Supply Project. We have requested the inclusion of \$255 million dollars in Senate Bill 2020 to maximize capabilities for the upcoming biennium. Currently, SB 2020 includes \$175 million for the Project, and we are very grateful for that.

We currently have \$340 million of shovel-ready construction and design work ready to begin if the Project is funded at the requested level this biennium. Our \$255 million request will be combined with \$85 million of local cost-share allowing for an accelerated build schedule. An accelerated construction schedule will provide drought protection sooner, while also protecting the State and the Project's end users from the ongoing risk of inflation.

Please consider maximizing the funding potential to move the Red River Valley Water Supply Project forward in the most cost-effective manner. Thank you, Chairman Nathe and members of the House Appropriations Committee Education and Environment Division for considering our request.