

Testimony in support of: North Dakota House Bill 1538-A Bill for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 20 of section 20.1-02-05 of the North Dakota Century Code

Date: 1/30/2023

Submitted by: Alan Lick

Address: 7301 135th Ave SE Sawyer, ND 58781

To: Representative Porter and Members of the North Dakota House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

As an avid angler and outdoorsman, I am writing to voice my support for your House Bill 1538.

In my opinion, the financial burden the current legislation on tournaments and tournament fees has placed on tournaments that are held within our state is far too restrictive. The result has been that the major tournament organizations have chosen to hold their events in other surrounding states that have much less restrictive fee structures. The loss of tournaments in our state affects our local communities with loss of tourism revenue. It also affects me personally by reducing the number of events available for me to participate in each year. Without major tournament circuits, there are virtually no other avenues to build yourself and your brand for building a professional fishing career.

Furthermore, there is a uprising of young anglers in the country, fishing high school and college fishing tournaments, and turning angling into a full time career. We need to pave a path in this state that allows our own children to have these types of opportunities as them become available.

The last point I will make is, why do tournament fisherman have to pay for boat ramps solely? Should this not be a responsibility of every watercraft owner that unloads at our lakes and rivers?

It is for these reasons that I overwhelmingly support Bill 1538. This Bill revising the language in the current legislation is important to the local communities in which these events are held and to the future of the sport that means so much to me personally. Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Alan Lick