

March 8, 2023

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

My name is Michael Wyum. I am the vice chairman of the Sargent County Water Resource District. I write today in support of SB 2326.

I support this bill since it restores the legislative intent established in the 2017 legislative session which adopted the one million dollar threshold for economic analysis of water conveyance and flood control projects. The later action by the State Water Commission to lower that threshold to two hundred thousand dollars has placed a significant financial burden on smaller water projects developed at a local level by water resource districts. The cost of calculating the economic analysis becomes quite significant as a percentage of total cost on a small project.

Even though many of our locally developed projects are small, they are of vital importance to the rural areas served.

Thank you for your consideration, and please give SB 2326 a SO PASS recommendation.