

Members of the committee,

My name is Fred Richter, PO 364, Sykeston, ND 58486. (701)-650-8936

My concerns are the funds being asked to be appropriated to the Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP).

I am a landowner and have land where the proposed pipeline is crossing.

According to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) projected financial needs summary, they are asking for \$254.3 million dollars for the RRVWSP in the upcoming biennium.

Before any funding should be appropriated for this project, the final ownership of the pipeline needs to be addressed. Since this is a state project, fully funded by the state, the state should be taking full responsibility and liability for the pipeline.

The compensation also needs to be addressed; Garrison Diversion will not negotiate on any change in compensation. They are using a 15 year old appraisal. Since they feel they can use Eminent Domain, they seem to feel that they do not have to negotiate in good faith. If this was an oil or gas line, 4 inches in diameter and 4 feet in the ground, we would be receiving 10 times the payment. This is a 72 inch pipeline, buried from 15-25 feet in the ground. The difference in soil disturbance is immense.

What I am asking for is for you to work with the landowners to adjust compensation to a fair level. This should be assumed into the funding budget. This is the fair and right thing to do, this is the time that it should be done.

To be clear, I am not against this project if this is what the citizens of North Dakota want. But I am also a citizen of North Dakota and feel that I should be treated fairly.