



**North Dakota Grain Growers Association  
Testimony in Support of HB 1218  
House Energy Natural Resources Committee  
January 30, 2025**

Chairman Porter, Members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, for the record my name is Dan Wogsland representing the North Dakota Grain Growers Association. NDGGA appears here today in support of HB 1218.

NDGGA supports HB 1218 and its proposed amendments to the comprehensive water development planning process in North Dakota. As an organization representing wheat and barley producers across the state, we recognize the critical importance of effective water management for our agricultural industry and rural communities.

This bill makes two key improvements:

1. It raises the threshold for requiring life cycle and economic analyses from \$1 million to \$5 million for major water projects. This change will allow the State Water Commission to focus its resources on truly significant projects while reducing unnecessary bureaucracy for smaller, more routine water developments.
2. It directs the Commission to develop policies for hosting planning meetings within each of North Dakota's major drainage basins. This basin-level approach will facilitate greater local input and prioritization of water projects, ensuring that the unique needs of each agricultural region are properly considered.

Water is the lifeblood of North Dakota agriculture. By improving the planning process, HB 1218 will help ensure we are making wise, forward-looking decisions about water infrastructure investments that support our farming communities and the state's agricultural economy. Therefore, Chairman Porter, Members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, the North Dakota Grain Growers Association respectfully requests a Do Pass recommendation from the Committee and would hope that the full House concur.