



**Eric Volk, Executive Director**

**ND Rural Water Systems Association**

**In Support of Senate Bill 2110**

**House Energy & Natural Resources Committee**

**March 6, 2025**

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Eric Volk. I am the executive director of the North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association (NDRWSA). Our vision is to ensure all of North Dakota has access to affordable, ample, and quality water. NDRWSA works with all the State's small and rural water and wastewater systems to help improve their technical, managerial, and financial capacity. Today, I am submitting testimony in support of Senate Bill 2110, which updates the certification and testing process for water and wastewater operators.

Our work with these systems includes a strong focus on Operator Certification. The Association plays a crucial role in helping operators achieve and maintain their certification. Properly certified and engaged operators are essential for the success and sustainability of our systems. During the interim, we collaborated closely with the NDDEQ to update their certification program, providing practical, real-world suggestions to enhance the overall process. We believe the Department's proposed changes represent a significant step forward for our water and wastewater systems.

**ND Water System Facts: 306 Community Water Systems**

- 178 serve less than 500 people
- 44 serve between 500-1,000
- 50 serve between 1,000-3,300
- 24 serve between 3,300-10,000
- 10 serve over 10,000

With that said, the NDRWSA supports Senate Bill 2110. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the members of the NDRWSA. Eric Volk, [ericvolk@ndrw.org](mailto:ericvolk@ndrw.org).