



Contact:
Lance Gaebe, Lobbyist
lgaebe@ndfu.org | 701 952-0103

**Lance Gaebe on behalf of
North Dakota Farmers Union
Testimony in Support of SB 2276
House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
March 20, 2025**

Chairman Porter and members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the North Dakota Farmers Union in support of Senate Bill No. 2276. My name is Lance Gaebe.

Our members appreciate the work of water resource districts in managing water movement and implementing critical water conveyance projects. Senate Bill No. 2276 can enhance local authority and decision-making to prioritize water management needs across political boundaries.

We understand that an amendment is proposed which will encourage participation in joint project boards when projects cross a water resource district boundary. We anticipate the proposed change will also clarify a county's responsibility to levy the project board's approved assessments. We support this revised approach.

Frequently, water projects involve watersheds that extend beyond the boundaries of a single county's water resource district. North Dakota Farmers Union members recognize the importance of water resource districts being able to collaborate on cross-boundary projects to:

- Provide farmland drainage relief, safeguard crops, and improve soil health.
- Enhance agricultural productivity and bolster the agricultural economy.
- Safeguard roads, bridges, and other vital infrastructure, reducing costly repairs and ensuring public safety.

North Dakota Farmers Union urges this committee to adopt the proposed amendments to revise the bill and then issue a "Do Pass" recommendation on SB 2276. I am available to answer questions.