



**House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Hearing for SB 2379
March 13, 2025
Testimony of Dani Quissell, Executive Vice President
North Dakota Water Users Association**

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns with SB 2379. I am Dani Quissell and I serve as the Executive Vice President of the North Dakota Water Users Association. The Water Users Association is the state-wide member organization dedicated to protecting, developing, and managing North Dakota's water resources. We have more than 150 members including local, statewide and regional organizations in North Dakota who have an active interest in water.

Many of our members are rural water systems and other water projects who have shared concerns with how SB 2379 could impact the important work they do providing clean and reliable drinking water to rural residents and small communities across North Dakota. When survey work is done for siting rural water projects, the general practice is to provide notice via mail. This practice is working with no measurable issues. If SB 2379 were to pass as currently drafted, rural water projects will take longer to complete at greater cost to both the state and local residents who pay for these projects.

We believe if the legislature would like to add this requirement, it's more appropriate to do so only for those instances where eminent domain is used and only after the eminent domain process has commenced.

Without that change, we would respectfully ask for a do not pass recommendation. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. I would be happy to stand for any questions.