

Letter of Support – HB 1020

Tuesday, March 7, 2025

Chairman Sorvaag and Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee - Education and Environment,lk; Division,

For the record, my name is Cale Dunwoody, and I have the distinct pleasure of serving as the Vice President of Public Policy for the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce (FMWF Chamber). On behalf of our over 1,700 members, I respectfully offer testimony in support of House Bill 1020, specifically as it relates to the Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP).

Our region is extremely grateful for the North Dakota Legislative Assembly's steadfast support and continued investment in critical water infrastructure projects. These projects provide long term protection to our communities, ensuring a future in which we can grow and thrive. This includes past efforts to fund the FM Diversion and continued support of the RRVWSP.

As our state and region continue to grow, so will the demand for water. The RRVWSP will serve as a key asset for many communities across central and eastern North Dakota – providing access to a sustainable supply of water. This project will not only mitigate drought conditions but will foster economic development by meeting growing residential and industrial water demands. We fully support the North Dakota House of Representatives recommendation to allocate \$260 million to support the RRVWSP.

As this committee considers House Bill 1020, we encourage funding the RRVWSP at the House's recommended level to provide critical access to water for North Dakota residents and businesses.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Cale Dunwoody

Vice President of Public Policy

Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce