

TESTIMONY OF

Andrew Nygren, Division Director, Water Appropriation Division

Chairman Luick, and members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee, I am Andrew Nygren, the Water Appropriation Division Director of the Department of Water Resources. I'm here today to provide additional information for House Bill 1531.

The bill's study aims in part to evaluate the economic benefits of irrigation, subsurface water management, and ramifications from changes to the original Pick-Sloan plan. The Department has several resources potentially relevant to the proposed study, which we wanted to provide to the Committee:

Irrigation

- An Inventory of Potential Irrigation Development in Central North Dakota printed in June 1996
- Assessment of Potentially Irrigable Land in Eastern McLean County printed in January 1999
- Assessment of Potentially Irrigable Land in the Area of the Warwick Aquifer in Benson, Eddy, and Nelson Counties, ND printed in July 1999

Subsurface Drainage

- Potential Effects of Subsurface Drainage on Water Appropriation and the Beneficial Use of Water in North Dakota, which completed under Senate Bill 2020 of the 60th Legislative Assembly and printed in 2008
- Potential Effects of Subsurface Drains on the Beneficial Use of Water in North Dakota. Addendum: Special Cases printed in 2018

The Pick-Sloan Plan

- A literature review by NDSU Professor Hearne with the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics, and presented to the Water Topics Overview Committee at their December 2021 meeting.

Managed Aquifer Recharge

- Assessment of Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) Potential for Glacial Drift Aquifers in North Dakota printed in early 2024. This publication also references Department of Water Resources publications on the matter of Managed Aquifer Recharge.

Lastly, the Department has collaborated with NDSU, the ND Irrigation Association, and Garrison Conservancy District to update irrigated acreage potential in North Dakota, with publication expected soon.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I'm happy to answer any questions.