

TESTIMONY OF

Patrick Fridgen, Division Director, Department of Water Resources

Chairman Patten, and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee – I Patrick Fridgen, Planning and Education Division Director for the Department of Water Resources (DWR). I am here today to testify in support of House Bill (HB) 1043 that is a clean-up of existing Century Code related to selection of a State Water Commission Vice Chairperson.

North Dakota Century Code (N.D.C.C.) § 61-02-05 clearly states “The governor is the chairman of the commission. The governor shall designate a vice chairman from the members of the commission.” In contrast, N.D.C.C. § 61-02-08 currently says the “The governor shall serve as chairman, and the commission shall select a member of the commission to serve as vice chairman.” This section is both redundant in regards to its reference to the Governor serving as chairman and contradictory in its directive to who designates the vice chair.

HB 1043 would remove redundant language related to the Governor serving as the Commission’s chair, and it removes contradictory language stating the Commission selects the vice chair, when N.D.C.C. § 61-02-05 says that is the role of the Governor, who also appoints the Water Commission members.

Chairman Patten, and members of the committee, we ask for your support and approval of this Century Code clean-up bill - HB 1043. This concludes my testimony, and I will stand for any questions that you might have.