



**North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Testimony in Support of HB 1218
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
March 13, 2025**

Chairman Patten. Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, for the record my name is Dan Wogsland representing the North Dakota Grain Growers Association (NDGGA) I am here today to testify in support of Engrossed House Bill 1218, a bill that will enhance the comprehensive water development planning process in our state. This legislation is crucial to ensuring that we have the tools and resources necessary to effectively manage our water resources for present and future generations.

HB 1218 strengthens the Department of Water Resources' ability to gather information and make informed decisions about water development projects. By requiring the commission to hold meetings within key drainage basins across North Dakota, we facilitate engagement with local communities and stakeholders, ensuring that their voices are heard and their unique needs are considered in the planning process.

However, I would like to respectfully request your consideration for an amendment to the bill. In the bill you have before you today, the economic analyses for flood control and water conveyance projects are only required for projects exceeding \$750,000. NDGGA believes this threshold is too low and does not adequately capture the scope of many important water development projects. Therefore, NDGGA would respectfully request your consideration to increase this threshold to \$2 million. This adjustment will ensure that a comprehensive economic analysis is conducted for a wider range of projects, allowing us to make more informed and fiscally responsible decisions.

By requiring a more robust economic analysis for a broader range of projects, we ensure that our state's investments in water development are strategically aligned with our long-term economic goals. This will lead to more efficient and sustainable water resource management, benefiting both our environment and our economy.

I strongly encourage the committee to support Engrossed House Bill 1218 with the proposed amendment to the economic analysis threshold. This legislation is a critical step towards ensuring a strong and sustainable future for water development in North Dakota.