



SB 2208 City of West Fargo Testimony

Provided by Bernie L. Dardis – President, Board of Commissioners

SB 2208 relates to procedures for drain permits, assessments projects, and operations of water resource districts. The City of West Fargo would like to go on record as being **in opposition** to the bill as written for the following reasons:

The City of West Fargo has been served well by projects under the authority of Southeast Cass Water Resource District and because of their efforts has protected its residents from major flooding. Most specifically the major Flood Events of 1997, 2001, 2009, 2010 and 2011.

- The powers and abilities granted to water resource districts by the State of North Dakota has allowed Southeast Cass Water Resource District the ability through its maintenance authority to upgrade and maintain the Sheyenne Diversion as well as legal drains in City limits which have provided safe and secure flood protection resulting in major growth and security to the residents of the City of West Fargo.
- Southeast Cass Water Resource District and the City of West Fargo have a great working relationship regarding the operations and maintenance of the Sheyenne Diversion and legal drains located within the City of West Fargo.
- The ability to respond to maintenance needs as well as changing conditions has allowed Southeast Cass Water Resource District to more efficiently and cost effectively continue to ensure the Sheyenne Diversion and legal drains in their jurisdiction are operating at their necessary capacity and to account for changes in drainage patterns due to changes in agricultural practices, urban development and flows on the Sheyenne River

The City respects the bill sponsors intent on the proposed bill, however feels it is necessary for the continued safety and security of our residents for the bill to not move forward as written.

The City of West Fargo urges a **DO NOT PASS recommendation on SB 2208.**