

**HB 1239
Testimony of Dani Quissell
House Agriculture Committee**

Chairman Thomas and members of the House Agriculture Committee, I'm Dani Quissell, here today on behalf of the North Dakota Water Resource Districts Association. I rise today in support of HB 1239.

Last session the agriculture and water groups came together to make needed updates to the drainage statutes via HB 1437. Part of that bill included a requirement that landowners who have tile projects that fall under the 80-acre permitting threshold notify their local water resource district and provide some very basic information about the project. That information included: the total project area and location of the project, location of outlets, and the direction of the water flow out of the outlets.

The legislature intended this notification requirement to be piloted in the biennium following the 2021 Legislative Session. Therefore, the requirement expired at the end of December 2022. From our perspective, the pilot has been successful, and we support the continuation of the notification requirement as envisioned in HB 1239.

From a planning and water management perspective, the information provided through notification is very important to water boards despite the small size of these projects. The water boards use this information for planning purposes. Knowing where water is coming from and which direction it is flowing is extremely beneficial when water boards are developing and building shared infrastructure like drains.

This notification requirement also provides water boards the information necessary to assure the public that the current drainage laws are being followed should there be an inquiry from a constituent.

For these reasons, I ask you to give HB 1239 a Do Pass recommendation.

Thank you. I'd be happy to stand for any questions you may have.