

Testimony of Tom Erdmann, Mayor of Carrington
House Finance and Taxation Committee; Senate Bill 2330
Bismarck, North Dakota – March 14, 2023

Representative Headland and members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee, I am Tom Erdmann and I am the Mayor of the City of Carrington and a board member on the Lake Agassiz Water Authority, which cosponsors the Red River Valley Water Supply Project a drought resiliency project for central and eastern North Dakota. I am writing to oppose SB2330.

Section 3 of SB2330 repeals Century Code Section 6-09-49.1. This provision was created in 2021 to provide more availability for loans through the Water Infrastructure Revolving Loan Program and the Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund, which are critical for accessing affordable financing for a wide range of critical infrastructure.

Accessibility to affordable financing through a long-term, low interest loan is critical to the City of Carrington as a participant in the Red River Valley Water Supply Project, as the Project becomes more affordable to a smaller city like ours.

The Water Infrastructure Revolving Loan Program, offering a 2% interest rate and up to a 40-year term, can save local taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars on the life of the loan as opposed to a market rate loan.

The Legacy Fund Loan Program is a multigenerational investment benefitting North Dakota citizens now and in the future.

If passed, SB2330 reduces access to affordable financing and puts the tax burden on local rate payers.

I ask that you please do not pass SB2330.

Thank you for your consideration.