

Testimony
HB 1038—Department of Water Resources
House Judiciary Committee
Representative Lawrence R. Klemin, Chairman
January 04, 2023

Chairman Klemin, and members of the House Judiciary Committee—I am Andrea Travnicek, the Director of the Department of Water Resources. I am here today to provide testimony in support of HB 1038. Specifically, section 18, which provides the technical correction updating language referencing the State Engineer to the Department of Water Resources.

In the 2021 session, House Bill 1353 combined the Office of the State Engineer with the agency known as the State Water Commission into the Department of Water Resources. It also created the position of a director and established the agency as a member of the Governor’s cabinet. The State Engineer maintains all regulatory oversight, while the Director oversees the department as a whole. The language in section 61-32-03.1 before you today is appropriately updating a reference of the State Engineer to the Department of Water Resources as the entity that would receive notice of a county water resource district-approved subsurface water management permit.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.