



**Eric Volk, Executive Director**

**ND Rural Water Systems Association**

**In Support of House Bill 1385**

**House Energy & Natural Resources Committee**

**February 10, 2023**

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Eric Volk. I am the executive director of the North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association (NDRWSA). Our vision is to ensure all of North Dakota has access to affordable, ample, and quality water. NDRWSA is committed to completing and maintaining North Dakota's water infrastructure for economic growth and quality of life. Today, I am submitting testimony in support of HB 1385 which allows for funding opportunities for all water systems to help meet the state's critical drinking water needs.

**Rural/Regional Water Summary:**

- Serve over 170,000 rural residents (70,000 connections).
- Provide water to 266 (75%) of North Dakota's 355 incorporated cities.
- Furnish water to nearly 300,000 North Dakota residents.
  - Service through over 41,000 miles of pipe.
  - See the **23-25 Project Funding Map** for reference.

Meeting the demands of repairing & replacing aging infrastructure and complying with rules & regulations are taking its toll on many small and rural water systems. A study completed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency revealed the rates needed to cover future infrastructure repair and replacement for small systems will be four times as high as their larger counterparts. Without significant state grant funding, the cost to the consumer is just too much for the average family to afford.

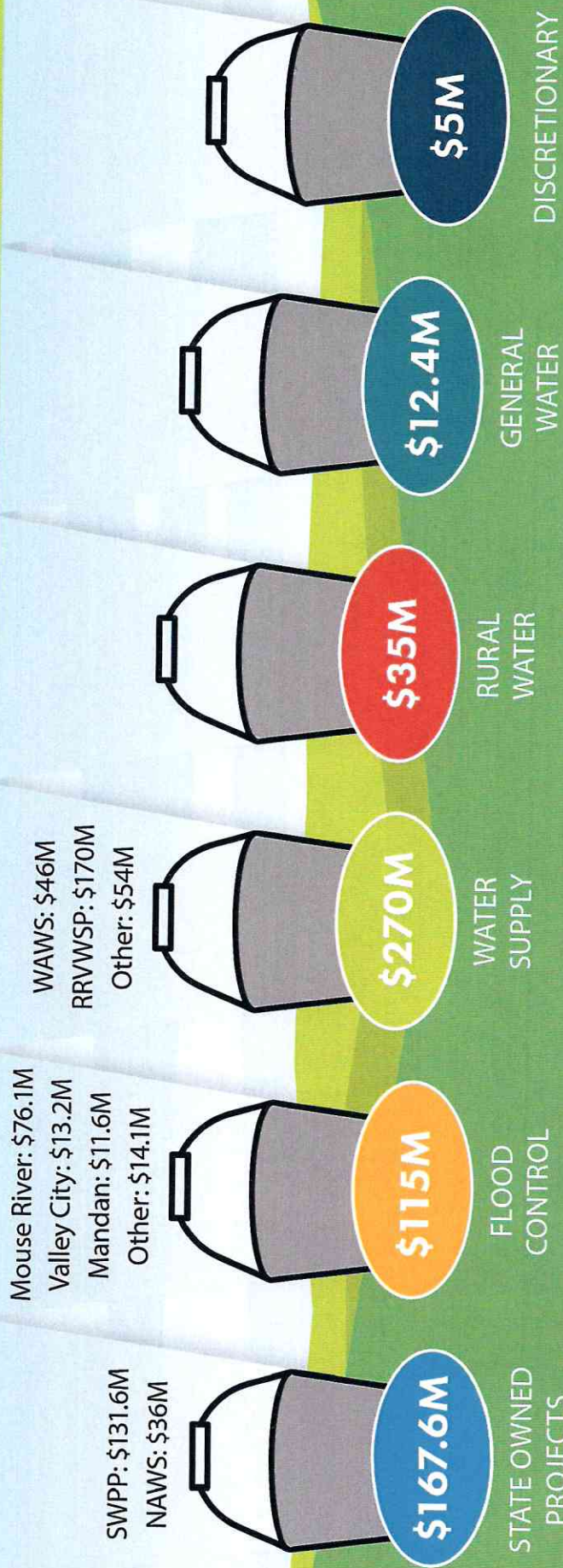
With that said, the NDRWSA supports HB 1385 which will allow for state funding opportunities for all water systems to help meet needs of North Dakota. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the members of the NDRWSA. Eric Volk, [ericvolk@ndrw.org](mailto:ericvolk@ndrw.org).







# 2023-2025 DWR PROJECT & PURPOSE FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS



Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) | Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) | Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP) | Western Area Water Supply (WAWs)