

Testimony opposed to 1391

Chairman Porter and Committee, my name is Phil Murphy representing the ND Soybean Growers Association. The NDSGA supports Water Resource Districts, the local entities made up almost exclusively of farmers across our state. We also attend most state-level water meetings to stay up to date with current practice. Especially in the eastern portion of our state but certainly relevant to every county, drainage is critical. In the bottom of the bathtub that is ancient Lake Agassiz, aka the Red River Valley, if you can't drain, you can't farm.

Because water issues often have some dissatisfaction that comes along with every project, the WRDs have developed what I call a dispute resolution protocol when they set up a plan for a drainage project. Those farmers/landowners impacted by a project vote to assess themselves or not, depending of the merits of the project in their view. This is a democratic process which is, after all, famously the way of our country. Some refuse to accept the verdict and raise a stink. This bill appears to be anti WRD with its 72 hour posting of minutes and unreasonable in its maintenance strictures. If I cannot be there for the hearing, I wanted to send in this testimony. Thank you for your consideration.