



**North Dakota Grain Growers Association  
Testimony in opposition to  
HB 1391  
House Energy and Natural Resources  
Committee  
February 2, 2023**

Chairman Porter, members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, for the record my name is Dan Wogsland, Executive Director of the North Dakota Grain Growers Association (NDGGA). NDGGA, through our contracts with the North Dakota Wheat Commission and the North Dakota Barley Council, engages in domestic policy issues on the state and federal level on behalf of North Dakota wheat and barley farmers. I am providing testimony for you today on behalf of NDGGA in opposition to HB 1391.

Chairman Porter, members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, HB 1391 is well intentioned legislation which seeks more transparency in the water resource board operations. Unfortunately, it is NDGGA's opinion that the new requirements in Section 1 of the bill are simply unworkable. Mandating that water resource board meeting minutes must be published and distributed in a seventy-two-hour timeframe is unworkable, especially for rural water resource districts who may not have full-time employees to help to accomplish this task. Additionally, would this new language then mandate extra water resource board meetings to approve the minutes prior to publication? Where would the minutes be published, especially if the official newspaper of the county doesn't go to print at the same time the new deadline mandates? These are but a few of the unintended consequences of HB 1391 NDGGA sees as problematic in the legislation.

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Similarly, why would the state mandate that alternate sources of revenue not be used or accounted for when informing the public regarding the cleaning and repairing of a drain as proposed in Section 2 of the bill? As a landowner I would hope the water resource board would look at every avenue possible to fund drain maintenance; it would only seem to be good business to inform the public regarding the costs as well as the funding sources needed to complete a drain maintenance project.

Therefore the North Dakota Grain Growers Association respectfully requests that the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee give HB 1391 a Do Not Pass recommendation and would hope the full House concur.