

**Testimony in support of:** North Dakota House Bill 1538-A Bill for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 20 of section 20.1-02-05 of the North Dakota Century Code

**Date:** February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2023

**Submitted by:** Ashley Ristow

Address: 7009 Beaver Creek Road, Bismarck ND 58504

**To:** Representative Porter and Members of the North Dakota House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

I am voicing my support for the House Bill 1538

Making changes to the current tournament fees and how they are structured is important because they have caused several large tournament circuits to no longer visit North Dakota. That has economic impact to local communities and also our youth anglers and potential new anglers. These large tournaments have educational seminars for youth and new anglers. They give them new rod and reel combos that they can keep and use on their own. This is vital to the future of fishing. They also emphasize the education of AIS and how to keep our waters clean. My children have participated in these events and enjoyed them. We also enjoy traveling around the state and visiting all of the communities where these events take place and used to look forward to it every year.

Sincerely,

*Ashley Ristow*

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