



**House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Hearing for SB 2097
March 3, 2023**

Testimony of Dani Quissell, North Dakota Water Users Association

Chairman Porter and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I am Dani Quissell, the Executive Vice President of the North Dakota Water Users Association. The North Dakota Water Users Association rises in support of SB 2097 today.

We are the state-wide member organization dedicated to protecting, developing, and managing North Dakota's water resources. The Water Users has more than 150 members including local, statewide and regional organizations in North Dakota who have an active interest in water. Our members meet annually to discuss and vote on policy.

We have longstanding policy developed and voted on by our members supporting local and state input prior to designating an area a wild, scenic or recreational river. We believe this legislation will help move us closer to achieving our overarching goal of providing adequate protection to existing or future water supplies in designating rivers as wild and scenic and preserving state authority to allocate water rights in the designation of wild and scenic rivers.

We are grateful that the Department of Water Resources included both local governments, including local water resource boards, and state agencies in the list of entities that should be notified. We would ask for your support of SB 2097.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I'd be happy to stand for any questions.