



*DEDICATED TO PROTECTING, DEVELOPING, AND MANAGING NORTH DAKOTA'S WATER RESOURCES*  
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**SB 2364**  
**Testimony of Dani Quissell**  
**House Energy and Natural Resources Committee**

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I am Dani Quissell, Executive Vice President of the North Dakota Water Users. I rise today in support of SB 2364.

The North Dakota Water Users has policy, developed and voted on by our grassroots members, supporting the Red River Valley Water Supply project that says, in part:

*The Red River Basin and central part of the state need a dependable and affordable high quality water supply for the cities of Fargo and Grand Forks, smaller communities, rural water systems, industry, ag processing, manufacturing and other purposes, to protect and enhance the economic stability and quality of life.*

This bill will help alleviate a concern from landowners regarding this project and hopefully allow for smooth completion of the project.

I would also note that there have been growing conversations across the state about the need to put North Dakota's allocation of the Missouri River water to beneficial use. There is rising pressure from other states, particularly in the drought ridden southwest, to look to the Missouri River as an additional water source for those communities. The impact on North Dakota of diverting Missouri River water elsewhere is concerning for the North Dakota Water Users. The only way we can ensure our allocation of Missouri River water is to put that water to use for things like irrigation or drinking water. Completion of the Red River Valley Water Supply Project would allow North Dakota to put a portion of our allocation to beneficial use, establishing North Dakota's right to that water and protecting the state's rights in the future.

For these reasons, we ask for a do pass recommendation on SB 2364.

Thank you. I'd be happy to stand for any questions you may have.