January 2023

To: Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee

Re: State Water Commission Budget - **Senate Bill 2020**

Dear Senator Patten and Committee Members,

My name is Terri Thiel, a rural Stark County resident. I wish to give my personal support for Senate Bill 2020. Our ranch is currently hooked up to SW Water, furnishing water for our cattle, horses, and personal home use. The quality of the water is not only vital for the health and income product of the sale of the livestock, but also an asset for our homelife.

My personal background with water use began in rural Minnesota in my youth with a cistern that had to be filled with a 1950's water tank truck, and later a commercial water truck service. Each time our use of water was limited and recycled to many extremes. Later I moved to Hettinger, ND, 1981, and the water at that time was so filled with fluoride that people's teeth were brown with white lines. The water also fizzed so much that it was as though an Alka-Seltzer was dropped into the glass. I then moved to south of Gascoyne, ND. The water was from a well that contained high levels of coal, everything was dark brown or black when it came out of the spouts. Later with a new well, we had water with Manganese that covered everything in bright orange scum. The water was manually distilled at one gallon per two hours (1980's), white clothes had to be brought to Bowman for washing at the laundry mat. Moving again, up to rural Dickinson, another well was the water source, and we were not able to drink the water, but instead hauled many plastic gallon jugs that were refilled weekly from the store.

At the time of buying a larger acreage in 2007, east of Dickinson, there was no SW Water line accessing the new property area north of the water hookup. We decided the value of the SW Water line was definitely worth the large investment and had a line dug just short of a mile north of Highway 10 east of Dickinson. For the first time in my life, I have been able to turn on water, good water, and not have to worry about minerals, or filling a water tank for a cistern, or have to haul water jugs or clothing miles away to a laundry mat.

Please support SB 2020 for those other residents who need the good water that SW Water provides. The good water that is provided is worth so much to residents and livestock.

Sincerely,

Terri Thiel

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