Testimony by Harold Gaugler
Southwest Water Authority Board Director, Grant County
On behalf of the
Southwest Pipeline Project
to the
Senate Environment and Education Committee
Hearing on Senate Bill 2020
January 19, 2023

Committee Members:

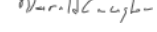
Greetings from snowy Grant County. My name is Harold Gaugler, I was born and raised in southern Grant County and returned to the family farm to raise our family. Along with my wife we are ranching with a son and daughter. A graduate of NDSU and Oklahoma State University I understand the value of our rural heritage and life style. Much of what we now do is centered around water.

For the past almost 20 years our home has been served by the Southwest Water Pipeline Project and have since added a pasture tap for livestock. In that time SWPP has been incredibly reliable and affordable. A year ago, I was appointed to the SWA board of directors and have been busy learning the ins and outs of this project. SWPP is currently in the midst of an expansion project, called the Burt Hebron expansion project, to better serve our residents. Much of this project is centered in Grant Co. and as the representative from that area, I know many of those who could be served. The cost of this project will be high! But as we expand our services, we are reaching areas that could not be served in the past and these people should be offered the same service that others have gotten, they are important too.

As you all know construction costs have skyrocketed. But the need for quality dependable water is also rising. Agriculture is becoming more complex all the time and the need for clean consistent quality water is higher than ever before. In order to encourage the youth of today to pursue careers in agriculture or to return to our small towns to work and raise their families we must have some of these modern conveniences. Rural water, internet, distant learning is just a few of things that are needed. After 20 years on our local school board, the value of returning young families is very apparent and needed to keep schools and main street viable.

This time of year, and especially now, Jodie and I get ready to visit relatives in AZ. As we travel, a common sight is people hauling water, to their homes and livestock. We in ND are blessed to have an abundant water supply in the Missouri River system, we need to continue tapping that source to supply water for all North Dakotans and I hope you continue to support SW North Dakota and the SWPP project. It is an investment in all of our futures!

Thank you for your time.
Respectfully,



Harold Gaugler
SWA Board Director, Grant County