

**Testimony of Lake Agassiz Water Authority
Senate Industry and Business Committee
Senate Bill 2330 Hearing
February 6, 2023**

Chairman Larsen and members of the Senate Industry and Business Committee, my name is Dr. Tim Mahoney and I am the Chair of the Lake Agassiz Water Authority (Lake Agassiz) and Mayor of Fargo. Lake Agassiz is the other cosponsor of the Red River Valley Water Supply Project along with the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District. This testimony is submitted in opposition to Senate Bill 2330.

Two years ago I testified in favor of HB 1425, which created the Legacy Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund. The passage of HB 1425 was applauded by the more than 30 cities and rural water systems that make up LAWA as work to develop an affordable financing solution for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP) and provide drought resiliency to approximately half the population of the State.

Section 3 of SB 2330 looks to completely repeal Section 6-09-49.1. We urge the Committee to carefully review this Section of the bill as it identifies the provision within the North Dakota Century Code that provides for the Legacy Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund. The Legacy Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund has greatly expanded the ability for political subdivisions, including LAWA, to access affordable financing for a wide range of critical infrastructure, like the RRVWSP.

We see the Legacy Revolving Loan Fund as an opportunity to provide an affordable and predictable financing for local governments. Like the State, cities are under constant pressure to keep up with the growing demand and increasing costs to build and maintain the necessary infrastructure for our citizens.

The State has been a vital partner for cities and local political subdivisions in providing for our citizens' needs and SB 2330 runs counter to that successful partnership.

Please provide a DO NOT PASS recommendation for SB 2330.

Thank you, Chairman Larsen and members of the Committee for consideration of my testimony on behalf of LAWA.