

SB 2330
Testimony of Dennis Reep
Senate Industry, Business and Labor Committee

As a member of the water community, I am concerned with SB 2330. This bill primarily addresses changes to the Legacy Fund Investment strategies that were adopted in the 2021 session through HB 1425. Of concern is section 3, which repeals the authorizing language for the Legacy Infrastructure Loan Fund.

Repealing this language would remove the ability of the state to provide low-interest, long-term loans to political subdivisions via the infrastructure revolving loan fund. This program has provided funding for projects like water treatment plant expansions, water main replacement, water storage projects, etc.

This loan program allows the state to use the Legacy Fund to invest in vital projects that benefit North Dakotans today and into the future while maintaining a return on that investment via interest payments. Without access to these low-interest loans, political subdivisions will either have to seek financing elsewhere, at a higher cost, or not move forward with these investments in their communities. If they do complete a project with a higher level of interest, payment of that interest has to be made by increasing the water rates or taxes that individual North Dakotans and businesses pay.

For these reasons, I ask for your opposition to Section 3 of SB 2330.

Thank you,