



North Dakota Irrigation Association

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Dedicated to strengthening and expanding irrigation to build and diversify our economy

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Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Testimony on HB 1075
Dani Quissell, North Dakota Irrigation Association

Good morning, Chairman Patten and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1075. I am Dani Quissell, the Executive Director of the North Dakota Irrigation Association. The Association is made up of irrigators, irrigation equipment dealers, businesses and others interested in supporting irrigation and irrigation development.

The Irrigation Association is supportive of the changes proposed in HB 1075. The process for cancelling a water permit is necessarily deliberative with opportunity for public feedback. Cancelling a permit not only has an impact on the permit holder, but also landowners who have put permit applications in but have not had those approved yet. In areas of the state where there is no 'new water', that is water that is not permitted, the only way someone can get a permit approved is if a permit is cancelled. We have members who are in this very situation right now. They are waiting for a permit to be approved, but that is unlikely to happen unless a permit in their area is cancelled.

We appreciate the careful consideration the Department gave to proposing these updates. As they have indicated, transitioning from a public hearing to a notice and comment period could provide a smoother, more expedited process, while maintaining that opportunity for public consultation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I'd be happy to stand for any questions.