



Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Hearing for HB 1077

March 2, 2023

Testimony of Dani Quissell, North Dakota Water Users Association

Chairman Patten and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I am Dani Quissell, the Executive Vice President of the North Dakota Water Users Association. The North Dakota Water Users Association supports HB 1077.

The Water Users Association is the state-wide member organization dedicated to protecting, developing, and managing North Dakota's water resources. We have more than 150 members including local, statewide and regional organizations in North Dakota who have an active interest in water. The Water Users was actively involved in the issue of water storage contracts that was referenced earlier by the Department of Water Resources and has policy to support the state's position regarding ownership of the water within the Missouri River system.

The Water Users believe it will be helpful to have the state more involved in the water storage contract process. The proposed notification requirement will help the state keep track of agreements in the state, which is especially important given the posturing of other states when it comes to use of the Missouri River. Since this bill's introduction, our members have continued this important conversation and would be supportive of amending the bill to also require the federal government to notify the state of already executed contracts.

We ask for your favorable consideration of HB 1077.

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