



**Eric Volk, Executive Director**

**ND Rural Water Systems Association**

**In Support of House Bill 1218**

**Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee**

**March 2, 2023**

Chairman Patten and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Eric Volk. I am the executive director of the North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association (NDRWSA). Our vision is to ensure all of North Dakota has access to affordable, ample, and quality water. NDRWSA is committed to completing and maintaining North Dakota's water infrastructure for economic growth and quality of life. Today, I am submitting testimony in support of House Bill 1218, the creation of the Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) authority. Shifting the NAWS Advisory Committee to an Authority is the next logical step as the project further develops. Below are a couple of suggestions to clarify and to create consistency within House Bill 1218:

**Page 1, Line 9** - It should reference subsection 5 not 4. The numbering was changed when North Prairie Regional Water District was added as a stand-alone member. I believe the intent was to reference the other city member being elected at the annual meeting of the ND League of Cities.

**Page 1, Line 13, Subsection 2 (North Prairie)** - One representative from the North Prairie Regional Water District recommended by the North Prairie Regional Water District board of directors.

**Page 1, Lines 14-18, Subsection 3 (All Seasons)** - One representative from the All Seasons Water Users District recommended by the All Seasons Water Users District board of directors.

**Page 1, Lines 19-21, Subsection 4 (Upper Souris)** - One representative from the Upper Souris Water District recommended by the Upper Souris Water District board of directors.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the members of the NDRWSA. Eric Volk, [ericvolk@ndrw.org](mailto:ericvolk@ndrw.org).