

March 14, 2023

Submitted by: Jared Pokrzywinski

Chairman Patten, Vice Chair Magrum and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

I respectfully ask the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee give House Bill 1538 a “do pass” recommendation.

As a lifelong resident of North Dakota and someone who is compensated to promote our great state of North Dakota and our amazing community of Devils Lake, I support HB 1538 and the changes to the definition of fishing contests. These changes not only better serve high school fishing leagues and other youth fishing events, but they also support every single person in our great state by promoting tourism. I also support the elimination of the onerous conservation fees that discourage local, regional & national events that represent significant economic benefits to North Dakota. Current rules also penalize first responder organizations from retaining the fishing event earnings they would otherwise use to support their response to local emergencies. Some might argue that these changes could be better addressed through the administrative rule process. Unfortunately, the ND Game & Fish Department has been engaged in addressing these issues for several years and to date has refused to make any of the requested changes.

Please give HB 1538 a “do pass” recommendation.

Best Regards,

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