

Testimony
House Bill 1098 – Department of Water Resources
Senate State and Local Government Committee
Senator Kristin Roers, Chair
March 2, 2023

Chair Roers, and members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee – I am Laura Horner, North Dakota’s FEMA Risk MAP Program Coordinator for the Department of Water Resources. I am here today to provide general support for House Bill No. 1098, which proposes to amend portions of North Dakota Century Code section 61-16.2-09(2), relating to flood disaster assistance and flood relief funding.

The Department of Water Resources, in cooperation with the Department of Emergency Services, supports state flood resilience. The Department of Water Resources provides community engagement on the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) by housing both the North Dakota State NFIP and NFIP Mapping coordinators.

House Bill 1098 proposes to add language that mirrors how the NFIP views potential federal funding limitations for those communities (Township, City, or County) that have an NFIP identified special flood hazard area but has failed to adopt or enforce floodplain management ordinances.

The Federal limitation based on this failure is tied to only insurable structures within National Flood Insurance Program-identified special flood hazard areas. Current language in N.D.C.C. § 61-16.2-09(2) limits eligibility to “any” flood disaster assistance and “any” state funds.

The Department of Water Resources supports the proposed change to match Federal funding perspectives for those communities with an identified flood hazard area with no adopted or enforced floodplain management ordinance, unlocking

additional flood disaster assistance and state funds for flood relief to help communities rebuild after a flood disaster.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and I would be happy to answer any questions.