

## Testimony in Support of HB1280

Chairperson Beltz, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today in support of HB 1280. My name is Drew Courtney, and I farm in the Oakes area.

This provision ensures fairness and accountability within water districts. Specifically, it stipulates that affected landowners receiving direct benefits from a proposed project must fulfill their financial obligations before participating in decisions that would obligate the district for additional costs.

Why is this important?

1. Promotes Financial Accountability: Allowing landowners who have failed to pay their assessments to vote could undermine the financial integrity of the district and place an undue burden on responsible members who have fulfilled their obligations.
2. Ensures Equitable Representation: This clause protects the interests of those who have already contributed by ensuring decisions are made by individuals who have a vested and equitable stake in the project's funding.
3. Encourages Compliance: By tying voting eligibility to the payment of required assessments, this provision incentive compliance, reducing delays and disputes caused by unpaid assessments.

This approach reflects good governance and equitable practices while safeguarding the district's ability to proceed with projects without undue financial strain or contentious disputes.

In conclusion, I believe this provision strikes the right balance between fairness and fiscal responsibility. I urge you to support this language as written. Thank you.