

Testimony of Duane DeKrey, Garrison Diversion General Manager
HB 1531
House Agriculture Committee
Bismarck, North Dakota – January 30, 2025

Chairman Beltz and members of the House Agriculture Committee; I am Duane DeKrey, General Manager of the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion), testifying in support of HB 1531.

Garrison Diversion supports the proposed irrigation expansion study that could play an important role in realizing the full irrigation potential in North Dakota. Our roots are in agriculture and, though Garrison Diversion is now a multipurpose project, irrigation remains a top priority. Through several initiatives, Garrison Diversion works to develop and enhance irrigation in North Dakota. The benefits seen across the state as a result of crop irrigation are numerous.

Irrigation provides the opportunity for producers to grow high-value crops that meet high-quality standards and market requirements. Without irrigation, meeting market standards would not be feasible due to the need for consistent high levels of moisture on high-value crops.

A carefully managed water supply offers opportunities for farm families and rural communities to build better lives for themselves, as the availability of reliable, high quality and affordable water can help families stay on the farm and not only survive, but prosper.

Irrigation investment will generate one-time and long-term economic benefits for the state, bringing opportunity to build a stronger North Dakota.

Thank you for your consideration.