



**North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Testimony in Support for HCR 3018
House Agriculture Committee
February 13, 2025**

Chairman Beltz, Members of the House Agriculture Committee, for the record my name is Dan Wogsland and I am here today on behalf of the North Dakota Grain Growers Association (NDGGA) to express support for House Concurrent Resolution No. 3018. We believe this resolution represents an essential step toward addressing the complexities of water and wetlands regulations and the taxation of inundated lands in North Dakota.

The Need for a Comprehensive Study

Water management and wetlands regulation are critical issues for North Dakota's agricultural producers. Farmers and landowners routinely face challenges due to unclear jurisdictional authority, inconsistent regulatory interpretations, and tax implications for inundated lands. As water and wetlands regulations often involve multiple levels of government including federal, state, and local agencies producers are frequently caught in a web of conflicting rules that hinder land use and economic productivity.

Additionally, inundated lands that are removed from tax rolls pose financial uncertainties for local governments while raising concerns among affected landowners. A thorough study of taxation policies on such lands is crucial to ensuring fairness, consistency, and predictability for both landowners and local governing entities.

Key Areas of Concern for Agriculture

1. Regulatory Uncertainty. Overlapping federal and state wetlands regulations create confusion for landowners attempting to manage their land while complying with conservation requirements. A study will help clarify these regulations and suggest ways to streamline permitting and compliance.

2. Economic and Taxation Impacts. The inconsistent application of tax exemptions for inundated lands can create unintended financial burdens for landowners while affecting county tax revenues. Examining taxation policies in other states could provide insights into more equitable solutions.

3. Impact on Land Use and Productivity. Water management policies that fail to account for the realities of farming can lead to unnecessary restrictions on agricultural land, diminishing its value and productivity. A clearer framework would help balance environmental protection with agricultural viability.

Conclusion

NDGGA supports the passage of HCR 3018 and urges the Legislature to move forward with this critical study. By conducting a thorough review of existing regulations, taxation policies, and jurisdictional frameworks, North Dakota can develop more efficient, transparent, and fair policies that serve the interests of farmers, landowners, and local governments.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.