

## Letter of Support - HB 1020

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Chairman Nathe and Members of the House Appropriations Committee - Education and Environment Division,

For the record, my name is Cale Dunwoody, and I have the distinct pleasure of serving as the Vice President of Public Policy for the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce (FMWF Chamber). On behalf of our over 1,700 members, I respectfully offer testimony in support of House Bill 1020, specifically as it relates to the Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP).

Our region is extremely grateful for the North Dakota Legislative Assembly's steadfast support and continued investment for critical water projects. For example, the FM Diversion which protects our region from the unpredictable Red River. This generational project is vital to the long-term growth of our community, providing permanent flood protection for thousands of North Dakota residents and businesses.

As our state and region continue to grow, so will the demand for water. The RRVWSP will serve as a key asset for many communities across central and eastern North Dakota – providing access to a sustainable supply of water. This project will not only mitigate drought conditions but will foster economic development by meeting growing residential and industrial water demands. The RRVSWP is a crucial component to the health and economic vibrancy of our region and the state of North Dakota.

As this committee considers House Bill 1020, we encourage funding the RRVWSP at an adequate level to ensure its timely completion.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Cale Dunwoody Vice President of Public Policy Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce