

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

**Testimony in Support of HB 1020** Presented to the House Appropriations - Education and Environment Division.

Honorable Chairman Nathe and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ryan Jilek, and I am the executive vice-president for Stark Development Corporation (SDC). I am submitting my testimony today to express my support for House Bill 1020 and the continued funding of the Department of Water Resources. More specifically as it relates to the continued development and funding of the Southwest Pipeline Project, as facilitated by the Southwest Water Authority.

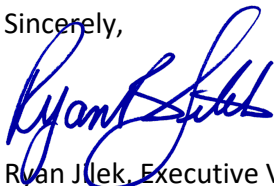
The importance of the Southwest Water Authority cannot be overstated. Its mission to ensure a reliable water supply for Southwest North Dakota is vital for the economic prosperity, health, and quality of life for our communities.

The Southwest Pipeline Project has been instrumental in providing clean and safe water to residents, businesses, and industries. This access is critical for sustaining agriculture, supporting local businesses, and enhancing the overall well-being of our region.

With its strong vision to address the water needs of the region, the Southwest Water Authority has demonstrated a commitment to efficient and sustainable water management. Additional capacity from the Intake and expanding transmission and treatment facilities allows future growth and economic opportunities for southwest North Dakota. Continued support and funding are essential for the ongoing success of this project and the continued growth of Southwest North Dakota.

I urge you to recognize the pivotal role of the Department of Water Resources and Southwest Water Authority and to lend your support to HB 1020. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,



Ryan Jilek, Executive Vice-President  
Stark Development Corporation