

Lower Heart River WRD  
P O Box 395  
Mandan, ND 58554

**Appropriations – Education and Environment Division**

**HB 1020**

**Representative Mike Nathe, Chairman**

Chairman Nathe, Members of the Education and Environment Division Appropriations Committee, my name is Bill Robinson, I am the Chairman of the Lower Heart River Water Resource District. We are submitting this testimony in support of HB 1020.

The Lower Heart River Water Resource District and the City of Mandan are truly appreciative of the past support provided by the State of North Dakota in progressing our Flood Risk Reduction Project forward. This FEMA recertification project is vital to the community, in both flood protection and flood mapping. Project completion would not be possible without past and continued support from the state.

The project timeline, as its presently understood, includes design and FEMA approval through 2025. Bidding and construction would commence in 2026 with completion occurring in 2028.

As it progresses toward construction, operating costs to implement construction will be a challenge we need to overcome. This project would benefit greatly from an opportunity to utilize a line of credit through the Bank of North Dakota's Water Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund. Utilizing that line of credit would offer us the ability to pay construction costs as they are incurred. After construction, the special assessment district established through the City of Mandan would allow the project to pay off that loan.

Therefore, we request consideration to include a line of credit up to \$11 million in the appropriation legislation for the North Dakota Department of Water

Resources budget in House Bill 1020. This would provide certainty to the financial condition of the construction activities of the project and allow us to move confidently forward toward final completion.

The project timeline, as it is presently understood, includes design and FEMA approval through 2025. Bidding and construction would commence in 2026 with completion occurring in 2028. Below are some pertinent information bullet points on the project:

- 2,600 commercial, industrial, and residential properties at direct risk.
- \$10 million in estimated annual flood insurance requirements if de-accredited.
- \$32 million in estimated in project cost remaining - \$13.8 million funded with FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance grant - \$11 million estimated from ND DWR cost-share assistance - \$7 million local funding via special assessment.

Thank you again for your past support. Without it and future consideration from the state, real and recognized flood protection for the City of Mandan will be in jeopardy. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Thank you.