

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1020
House Appropriations
Education and Environment
January 28th, 2025**

**Brandon Bochenski, Mayor
City of Grand Forks, ND**

Chairman Nathe, members of the committee. Please accept my written testimony in support of House Bill 1020 and funding for the Red River Water Supply Project (RRVWSP) in-line with the intent of the 68th Legislative Assembly last biennium.

The RRVWSP is an important drought mitigation project that serves a large part of the state including major cities and rural water systems alike. Grand Forks and Fargo have been working collaboratively to develop an Assurance Policy that will ease the potential burden on smaller users to ensure the maximum utilization of the project.

I am proud of the work done by the Lake Agassiz Water Authority (LAWA) to represent the end users of the project ensuring proper governance and leadership. LAWA couldn't be more grateful for the work and partnership with the State of North Dakota, to include a 75% cost share and favorable financing terms from the Bank of North Dakota.

As the project nears its midway point, it is crucial to continue momentum towards completion. All of the appropriated funds from last biennium have been allocated, proving the project construction is on schedule.

Grand Forks is seeing tremendous growth in value added agriculture processing, which relies heavily on water supply for production. Having water supply even in drought conditions allows the economy a resilience that will allow further investment in large production facilities.

Pairing the needs of large industry with the needs of all residential users the RRVWSP gives important assurances for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Brandon Bochenski
Mayor of Grand Forks