



North Dakota

**SPORTFISHING
CONGRESS**

North Dakota Sportfishing Congress
Box 2472
Bismarck, ND 58502-2472

January 16, 2025

Subject: HB 1017

Submitted by: Richard Brueckner, President of the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress (NDSFC)

Dear Chairman David Monson, Vice Chairman Mike Brandenburg, members of the House Appropriations-Government Operations Division.

We are asking for your unanimous support for HB 1017, appropriates to the Game and Fish Department for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2027.

One of the greatest threats facing North Dakotas waters today is the introduction of and spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) (zebra mussels, Asian Carp, Eurasian watermilfoil to name a few). The additional funding scheduled in the Governor's budget is vital in this fight against ANS. As it stands today the ND Game and Fish Department has been given the task to take on this battle making the full funding of the budget vital to the fight.

If it were possible I would ask you to double the funding out lined in the Governor's budget. As the threat of ANS is real and affects all North Dakotans. The threat to North Dakota is great and as close as 30 miles across the ND / MN border. The state of MN is battling many more ANS invaders and we must ensure that our precious natural resources are protected from these invaders.

In closing, I want to thank the committee for the opportunity to submit testimony in support for HB 1017.

Respectfully

Richard Brueckner

President

North Dakota Sportfishing Congress