



*DEDICATED TO PROTECTING, DEVELOPING, AND MANAGING NORTH DAKOTA'S WATER RESOURCES*  
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**House Industry, Business and Labor Committee  
Hearing for HB 1141  
January 27, 2025  
Testimony of Dani Quissell, Executive Vice President, North Dakota Water Users  
Association**

Chairman Warrey and members of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony on HB 1141. The North Dakota Water Users Association is the statewide member organization that advocates for adequate water funding and sound policy at both the state and federal level. As an organization that intentionally works to bring all members of the water community together, both public and private, we have concerns with how HB 1141 could impact the work that our group does.

The Water Users has a long history of working with the entire water community, our congressional delegation, the legislature, and state and federal administrations to support the development of our water resources. If we go back to the 1980s, our organization worked closely with the legislature and governor on a proposed constitutional amendment to establish the Resources Trust Fund—a fund that today has made possible a robust rural and regional water supply system that touches every corner of the state and many large and small flood control projects that protect homes, businesses, farms and roads in our largest cities and rural counties.

If HB 1141 had been the law of the land in the late 1980s when this historic constitutional measure was on the ballot, the Water Users and others in the water community would have been punished for its collaboration with local political subdivisions and others in the water community to support the creation of the Resources Trust Fund. That punishment would have been twofold:

1. Political subdivisions and state agencies would have been prevented from holding or maintaining membership in the Water Users and
2. Individuals who worked at these entities would have been unable to have their employer cover the costs to attend educational conferences or workshops hosted by the Water Users.

Collaboration has been key to the successes we have experienced when it comes to water development in North Dakota. The practical application of HB 1141 would significantly hinder the ability of private and public entities to partner on this important work.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a 'do not pass' recommendation on HB 1141. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. I'd be happy to stand for any questions.