



North Dakota

**SPORTFISHING
CONGRESS**

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

**House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Hearing for HB 1470
February 6th, 2025**

Chairman Porter, Vice Chairman Anderson, and Members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 1470.

My name is Richard Brueckner, and I serve as the President of the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress (NDSFC). The NDSFC is a statewide organization dedicated to preserving, promoting, and improving the quality of sport fishing in North Dakota. As sportsmen, sportswomen, and outdoor recreationists, we support the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's thorough review of its license fees. In many cases, it has been over 12 years since the last fee increase.

One of the most pressing threats to North Dakota's natural resources is the spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS), with zebra mussels being the most dangerous. Once established, they cannot be eradicated. In addition to this challenge, we face costly infrastructure concerns. Many of our dams and reservoirs, built in the 1950s, have exceeded their expected lifespan and require extensive restoration and repair—costs that far exceed the department's current budget.

As you review the proposed license fee adjustments, we also urge the committee to consider increasing the department's reserve funding limits. Specifically, we recommend raising the reserve to \$25 million to ensure the long-term sustainability of outdoor recreation in North Dakota.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your support in securing the future of sport fishing and outdoor recreation for generations to come.

Respectfully,

Richard Brueckner
President
North Dakota Sportfishing Congress