



House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Testimony on HB 1554

North Dakota Game and Fish Department
Jeb Williams, Director
January 31, 2025

Chairman Porter, members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, for the record, my name is Jeb Williams, and I serve as the Director of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (Department). The Department's director also serves as a non-voting technical committee member of the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF).

As a member of this technical committee for the past three and a half years, our agency supports the changes proposed in HB 1554. The addition of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to the existing technical committee would be a valuable enhancement, given the wide variety of projects reviewed by the committee. These projects currently benefit from the expertise of representatives from the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department, the North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts, and the North Dakota Forest Service.

Since the inception of the OHF, many proposed projects have included water-related components, with several receiving additional funding from the Department of Water Resources. The DWR's expertise would provide critical insight and guidance, strengthening the technical committee's ability to offer timely, professional recommendations to the voting members of the OHF Committee.