



Contact:
Matt Perdue, Lobbyist
mperdue@ndfu.org | 701.641.3303

**Testimony of
Matt Perdue
North Dakota Farmers Union
Before the
House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
January 31, 2025**

Chairman Porter and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1554. My name is Matt Perdue, and I am testifying on behalf of North Dakota Farmers Union's (NDFU) members. NDFU supports HB 1554.

NDFU is proud to have a seat on the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) Advisory Board. Many of the projects funded by OHF support conservation on working agricultural lands. That support helps family farmers and ranchers build on their strong history of stewardship. We believe a strong OHF process is beneficial to the success of the fund.

We support the addition of the Department of Water Resources as an ex officio, nonvoting member of the OHF Advisory Board. This legislation would also allow OHF to advance a project funding recommendation with a majority vote of the advisory board *members present*. Under the current process, a majority of *all* advisory board members must approve of a project before it moves forward. It is common for boards to require a majority vote of *members present*, and we think this is an appropriate change.

We are concerned that the existing language does not capture the full intent of the bill. In its current form, HB 1554 simply states the OHF Advisory board "shall recommend...approval of grants." We understand the intent of the legislation is to require a majority vote of the advisory board for that recommendation. We support amending the language to make that intent clear.

Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We encourage the committee to adopt the proposed amendment and respectfully request a "Do Pass" recommendation on HB 1554.