



Written Testimony

January 29th 2025

**To: Members of the House Energy and Natural Resource Committee
Representative Todd Porter, Chairman**

**From: Jim Hausauer, REHS *JH*
Water Reclamation Utility Director
City of Fargo**

Re: Testimony in Support of House Bill 1577

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program

Historically, wastewater infrastructure funding has been supported with local funding (sales tax, assessments, and rates) as well as Federal and State funding through low interest Clean Water State Revolving Fund loans. HB1577 provides a wastewater infrastructure grant program similar to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) grant program for water infrastructure. This grant program would be very beneficial to Wastewater Utilities throughout the State to keep user rates as low as possible in light of the ever-increasing cost of new infrastructure, rehabilitation of existing infrastructure, and continued compliance with all regulations.

Administer and Appropriate the Grant Program

This grant opportunity will allow wastewater systems to respond quickly to a large-scale infrastructure failure and/or give wastewater systems the ability to provide treatment technology for emerging contaminants and/or pathogens while reducing the impact on municipal budgets and customer rates.

The City of Fargo is very interested in this potential grant program to address aging infrastructure to stay in compliance as well as working with our regional partners to install new infrastructure and/or connection points to maintain a strong regional network while keeping rates low for customers.

Small communities will greatly benefit from the grant program as they are very susceptible to aging infrastructure replacement and the escalating costs associated with rehabilitation. These smaller communities cannot financially tolerate a significant system failure or a new regulatory requirement.

Summary

Members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I ask for your support of HB1577