



146 Main Street E. Box 717 Hazen, North Dakota 58545
Phone (701) 748-2550 Fax 748-2559
Email hazennd@westriv.com

A proud heritage - A promising future

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1577
HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
JANUARY 30, 2025**

Chairman Porter, Vice-Chair Novak, and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Jerry Obenauer, and I have the distinct privilege of servicing as President of the Board of City Commissioners for the City of Hazen, and I provide testimony in support of HB 1577.

As in most smaller communities, infrastructure development and upgrades are a major part of city budgets. While we are always seeking funding from many sources, both federal and state, to supplement local funds in addressing these needs, a grant program such as this can be a lifeline to local residents.

The City of Hazen has been a recipient of State Water Grants, and this program is invaluable to us. A similar program, assisting municipalities in addressing the ever-rising costs of wastewater infrastructure will only enhance the quality of service and overall quality of life for our communities, large and small.

Based on information gathered by the State of ND, there are currently three hundred (300) sewer projects/needs with a total cost of \$1.7 billion dollars so there is a distinct need for funding assistance for all communities.

For this reason, the City of Hazen supports a **DO PASS** recommendation on HB 1577.

Respectfully submitted
Jerry Obenauer, President
Hazen City Commission
Hazen, ND
Attest: Monte Erhardt
City Auditor