

Good afternoon, Chairman Longmuir and members of the Political Subs Committee.

My name is AS, D13, WF.

**House Bill 1162** seeks to recognize the remarkable growth of West Fargo and ensure its representation on the **Lake Agassiz Water Authority (LAWA)** Board of Directors.

The **LAWA** Board plays a critical role in shaping water policy and infrastructure for our region—decisions that directly affect the future of our communities.

Currently, the West Fargo Mayor serves as an *associate* member of the board, a status that allows participation but **no voting power**.

This arrangement made sense years ago when the city's footprint was small, but West Fargo has grown immensely over the past decade especially in its school enrollment.

This growth brings with it an increasing reliance on the board's decisions. West Fargo's water needs, economic vitality, and future development are deeply tied to the policies adopted by **LAWA** board.

Yet, under the current structure, the city has no formal vote, no true seat at the table. **HB 1162** calls for **change**.

It is curious to note Moorhead, MN holds voting power on the board.

While we recognize Moorhead is an important stakeholder, its influence should not outweigh that of West Fargo.

HB 1162 proposes a straightforward solution: **transition the West Fargo Mayor from an associate member to a full voting member of the LAWA.** (Subsection 1b, line 9).

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am open for questions.