

Dakota Rural Water District

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Jordyne Lee, General Manager

Dakota Rural Water District

In Opposition of House Bill 1537

House Political Subdivisions Committee

February 6, 2025

Chairman Longmuir and members of the House Political Subdivisions Committee. My name is Jordyne Lee and I am the General Manager of Dakota Rural Water District.

Dakota Rural Water District is located on the east side of North Dakota and provides water services to 1100 users through approximately 1370 square miles of pipeline. We serve in seven counties and provide bulk water for six cities. Rural water districts are political subdivisions and only receive dollars for operations based on water rates charged to customers, they do not receive any tax dollars to operate. Some water districts have a combination of federal and state loans. The territorial protections are put in place to ensure that rural water districts can repay these loans.

If HB 1537 was to go through it would wipe away all the hard work that the State of North Dakota has done with financial investments in rural water systems to help improve the quality of water/life for the rural customers. If rural water districts loses customers that are the most economical to them for instance customers that live close to a city it would affect all the remaining customers that live out in the rural areas as the rates would have to increase and would eventually be unaffordable for some.

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in opposition of HB 1537. We respectfully ask for a Do Not Pass Recommendation. Jordyne Lee.

