



SOUTHEAST WATER USERS

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Steve Hansen

Southeast Water Users District

In Opposition of House Bill 1537

House Political Subdivisions Committee

February 5, 2025

Chairman Longmuir and members of the House Political Subdivisions Committee. My name is Steve Hansen, General Manager of Southeast Water Users District. Southeast Water Users District serves approximately 3800 rural customers along with 23 cities within its District.

I am providing testimony in opposition to House Bill 1537. This bill would take away the protection that rural water districts have in state statute 6-09.4-22. HB 1537 will allow other municipalities to infringe on our district and cherry pick the most profitable areas and leave the rest to be served by rural water systems.

Rural Water Systems need state statute 6-09.4-22 to protect the loans they have with state government lenders. State government lending agencies have a large investment in rural water systems throughout North Dakota and HB 1537 will jeopardize those investments.

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in opposition of HB1537. We respectfully ask for a Do Not Pass Recommendation. Steve Hansen