



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DR. TIM MAHONEY

Fargo City Hall

225 4th Street North

Fargo, ND 58102-4817

Phone: 701.241.1310 | Fax: 701.476.4136

www.FargoND.gov

**Testimony of Dr. Tim Mahoney
Lake Agassiz Water Authority (LAWA) Chairman & Fargo Mayor
House Bill 1020
Senate Appropriations Committee – Education and Environment Division
Bismarck, North Dakota – March 11, 2025**

Honorable Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee,

Please accept this testimony in my absence in strong support of funding for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project. As Mayor of the City of Fargo and Chairman of the Lake Agassiz Water Authority (LAWA), I have the privilege and responsibility of representing our city in Washington D.C., where I am advocating for infrastructure projects that will benefit not only Fargo but the entire State of North Dakota.

Thanks to previous legislative support, we have made significant progress on the Red River Valley Water Supply Project by successfully awarding eight construction contracts and completing 17 miles of pipe utilizing authorized funds from past legislative sessions. With \$260 million appropriated in HB 1020, we can maintain the project's cost-effective timeline and move closer to securing a long-term, emergency water supply for nearly half of North Dakota's population—while also fostering economic development for both small and large communities

Although the cities of Fargo and Grand Forks are the largest users, we are pleased to report that an additional 15 communities, counties, and rural water users have signed Memorandums of Commitment (MOCs) to participate in the Project. These MOCs equate to approximately 92% of the total project capacity of 165 cfs (cubic feet per second of water flow).

Ensuring local affordability is key to widespread participation, which is why LAWA is requesting the State continue the Capitalized Water Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund (WIRLF) with \$85 million in funding for 40 Years at 2% interest rate and fund additional flexible financing options that allows the Project's end users to grow into their repayments.

The requested \$260 million in HB 1020, combined with \$85 million in local funding, is critical to advancing this project. I respectfully ask the Committee to approve this funding and provide access to flexible financing mechanisms that will help ensure a fiscally responsible path forward for all stakeholders.

Thank you,

- Dr. Timothy Mahoney, Mayor of the City of Fargo