

Testimony by Dave Koland, General Manager
Garrison Diversion Conservancy District

To the

**Natural Resources Interim Committee
Oversight Hearing**

Bismarck, North Dakota
October 31, 2007

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee; my name is Dave Koland. I serve as the General Manager of Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion). Garrison Diversion is an instrumentality/political subdivision of the state created in 1955 to construct the Garrison Diversion Unit of the Missouri River Basin Project as authorized by Congress on December 22, 1944. Amendments in 1986 and 2000 have changed Garrison Diversion from a million acre irrigation project into a multipurpose project with an emphasis on the development and delivery of municipal and rural water supplies. Our mission is to provide a reliable, high quality and affordable water supply for the benefit of North Dakota.

I would like to update you with a short PowerPoint presentation on the Red River Valley Water Supply Project.

The Dakota Water Resources Act of 2000 (an amendment to the Garrison Diversion Reformulation Act of 1986) authorizes \$200 million for construction of

the Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP) to meet the needs of the Red River Valley.

The act authorized two studies: The Secretary of Interior has conducted a comprehensive study of the water quality and quantity needs of the Red River Valley and possible options for meeting those needs and the Secretary and the State of North Dakota, represented by Garrison Diversion, are jointly preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) concerning all feasible options to meet the comprehensive water quality and quantity needs of the Red River Valley.

The Needs and Options Report was completed in 2005 and the Environmental Impact Statement is scheduled for release this fall. North Dakota and the Bureau of Reclamation have selected a buried pipeline from the McClusky canal to Lake Ashtabula as the preferred alternative to meet the long term water needs of the Red River Valley.

The Red River Valley Water Supply Project will be jointly funded by the water users, the state of North Dakota and the federal government.

Mr. Chairman, I would be pleased to address any questions you or the committee might have.