

Testimony by Steve Knorr
Sawyer, ND

To the

Water-Related Topics Overview Committee

Bismarck, North Dakota
October 9, 2012

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee; my name is Steve Knorr. I am a resident of Sawyer, ND. I have been a farmer and irrigator for 12 years and irrigate from the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District's McClusky Canal Mile Marker 7.5 Irrigation Project.

I would like to expand my irrigation operation, but to do so will take a significant amount of investment. Essentially, I have two options to finance my project expansion. The first option I have is an operating loan, and the second would be through the Special Assessment Authority. The Special Assessment Authority is advantageous to my irrigation operation because it allows me to maximize my financing capabilities by not consuming my line of credit at the bank.

The Special Assessment Authority allows the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District to continue to assist farmers like me in developing their irrigation projects. Our land would be assessed in order to fund the central supply project. Only farmers who choose to participate in a project will be affected.

The Special Assessment Authority is set to sunset in 2013. I support the removal of the sunset clause from HB1318, as there are additional farmers in the development stages of irrigation that would benefit from the Special Assessment Authority just as I would.

Thank you for allowing my testimony to be heard today.