

Testimony by Rick Anderson, McLean County Director
Garrison Diversion Conservancy District

To the

Water-Related Topics Overview Committee

Bismarck, North Dakota
October 9, 2012

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee; my name is Rick Anderson, and I am immediate past Chairman of the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District Board of Directors. I represent McLean County, and I am here to urge you to remove the sunset clause from HB1318.

As a farmer utilizing irrigation in my farm operations, I can tell you of the value irrigation has brought to my farm. My risk has decreased, and the value of my land has increased. I am also able to produce higher yielding crops. It is important for the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District to be able to assist with irrigation projects in order for irrigation development to continue.

The Special Assessment Authority would allow the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District to continue to assist farmers in developing their irrigation projects by assessing participants' land 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, as the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District continues to work with farmers as they develop irrigation projects that would benefit from the Special Assessment Authority.

Thank you for allowing my testimony to be heard today.