

HB 1353

House Appropriations

Rep. Delzer, Chairman

January 26, 2021

Chairman Delzer and members of Appropriations Committee. For the record Blake Crosby, Executive Director, ND League of Cities.

This appointment of a Director within the State Water Commission (SWC) has been discussed for many months. The appointment is not to be seen as a dissatisfaction with current personnel nor a correction to a bad process. Rather it is an understanding that the work of the SWC is evolving and with that evolution comes the need for change.

Change that will enhance the work of the SWC and the ability of the SWC to respond to the changing environment of managing the State's water resources. The current SWC has moved forward in a very progressive and responsible manner on state water issues and understands there is more work to be done. At the same time, we need to maintain and monitor the work that is in progress.

I see this position as a complement to the SWC, a direct communication to policy makers by someone unencumbered by other duties and the link between the Office of State Engineer, SWC and the water users of the state.

I respectfully ask for a Do-Pass on HB 1353. I will try to answer any questions.