

Testimony
House Bill 1063 – State Water Commission
House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
January 14, 2021

Good morning Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I am Tim Freije, Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS)/Southwest Pipeline Project (SWPP) Section Head for the State Water Commission. I am appearing before you today to provide testimony on House Bill 1063.

Chapter 24.6 of Title 61 of the North Dakota Century Code authorizes the NAWS project, creates and defines the NAWS Advisory Committee and tasks the State Water Commission to build, operate, and manage the project in consultation with the Advisory Committee.

61-24.6-02 defines the membership of the NAWS Advisory Committee and 61-24.6-10 defines the NAWS project area. The membership of the NAWS Advisory Committee and the project area as originally enacted represented areas of the State which could potentially have been served by the NAWS project presumably to ensure that any entities interested in joining the project had the opportunity to do so. The scope of NAWS has since been refined by participation of various municipalities and rural water districts joining the project and is also limited by the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision prepared for the project. House Bill 1063 modifies 61-24.6-02 and 61-24.6-10 to refine the membership of the NAWS Advisory Committee and the project area to better reflect the areas of the State that will actually be served by the NAWS project.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony on this bill. I will answer any questions you or the committee have to the best of my abilities.