

Testimony of Dr. Timothy Mahoney
Lake Agassiz Water Authority Chair & Mayor of Fargo
House Bill 1380
Senate Appropriations Committee
Bismarck, North Dakota – March 31, 2021

Hello Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1380. My name is Dr. Tim Mahoney, and I chair the Lake Agassiz Water Authority (Lake Agassiz) as well as serve as the Mayor of Fargo. Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion) and Lake Agassiz are cosponsors of the Red River Valley Water Supply Project.

I am here today on behalf of Lake Agassiz and the potential end users of the Red River Valley Water Supply Project to respectfully request that this Committee support the creation of a Legacy Infrastructure Fund for one-time infrastructure and/or water infrastructure projects.

The Red River Valley Water Supply Project will meet the criteria laid out for eligibility in Section 6 of House Bill 1380 as it is both a water project and a one-time infrastructure project.

The Red River Valley Water Supply Project is designed to safeguard the water supply for nearly 50% of North Dakota during moderate and severe droughts. The Project will deliver water from the Missouri River to communities and rural water systems in central and eastern North Dakota via a buried pipeline.

The ability of communities and water systems to afford their continued participation in the Red River Valley Water Supply Project will determine whether they will receive a supplemental source of water to help them and local industries through moderate and severe

droughts. The Project is also necessary to attract and retain industry to the central and eastern parts of the state.

The development of a Legacy Infrastructure Fund would set aside Legacy Fund earnings specifically for some of the most needed infrastructure projects in North Dakota. Please support the investment of Legacy Fund earnings into North Dakota infrastructure projects. The creation of a Legacy Infrastructure Fund is your opportunity to support infrastructure investments that will allow the Legacy Fund earnings to directly benefit infrastructure projects and the communities that construct them.

Thank you, Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee.