

Testimony
House Bill 1063 – State Water Commission
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
March 12, 2021

Good morning Chairman Kreun and members of the Senate 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 testify in favor of House Bill 1063 (HB 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.

NDCC 61-24.6-02 defines the membership of the NAWS Advisory Committee and NDCC 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 The membership of the NAWS Advisory Committee and the project area, as originally enacted, represented areas of the State which could potentially have been served by the NAWS project presumably to ensure that any entities interested in joining the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.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony on this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 1063 and I will answer any questions you or the committee have to the best of my abilities.