

Upper Souris Water District
Mr. Joddy Meidinger, Manager
43601 506th Street Northwest
POB 397
Kenmare, ND 58746

March 12, 2021

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Peace Garden Room - ND State Capitol
% Chairman Kreun

RE: TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB 1063

Senator Kreun and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for accepting my testimony today in support of HB 1063.

As the manager of Upper Souris Water District, on behalf of our members, I want to express my concern over how the NAWS system will be ultimately owned, operated, and maintained. As one of the smaller water districts in the State we do not have the financial luxury to make mistakes if we want to continue to serve our customers to the best of our ability.

Since about one-third - over 100 miles - of NAWS transmission lines, reservoirs, pump stations, and vaults run through our district, you can understand the importance of trusting that the decision-making process will be fair and equitable for everyone, rural and city taxpayers alike.

In short, every attempt must be made to strengthen the immediate effectiveness of the Advisory Board as it pertains to the continued construction and the eventual completion of the NAWS project.

Please help to ensure that Upper Souris and its rural customers will have a commensurate voice in how the NAWS system will be owned, maintained and operated as it moves forward. HB 1063 takes a step in the right direction.

Thank you for all you do to support water projects in the State. We could not do it without you.

Sincerely,
Mr. Joddy Meidinger, Manager