

**House Energy and Natural Resources
Chairman – Representative Todd Porter
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**Testimony of Dan Jonasson
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HB 1218

Good afternoon, Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Dan Jonasson and I am the Director of Public Works for the City of Minot.

Minot is in favor of the creation of the NAWS Authority to oversee the general operations and oversight of the NAWS system.

As you may be aware, NAWS is a complicated system with many different facets that need to be coordinated and maintained.

First, there is a biota treatment facility, with a federal interest in the construction and operations. Second, there is a municipal water plant in Minot that is owned and operated by the city of Minot. Finally, there are numerous tanks, pipelines and storage structures, which were constructed with Federal, State and Minot funds.

We feel the development of the NAWS authority is a great step forward in having an entity to coordinate and provide oversight in the operation and maintenance of these numerous facilities and capital investments.

We are, however, concerned with the proposed makeup of the authority proposed in HB 1218 and feel there needs to be more discussion and input toward the exact makeup of the NAWS authority board members. There doesn't seem to be a coordinated effort here to assure that all interests in the NAWS system are fairly represented.

Lets start with the City of Minot, who is the major user of the NAWS system water, with over 80% of the usage. Minot has provided the local cost share of 35% for the NAWS system. As a result, we think Minot should be allowed more than 3 seats(which is only 33% representation) on this authority Again, Minot is the major user at 80%+.

We agree there should be a seat provided for North Prairie, who currently purchases water through us from NAWS. However, it does not seem fair that Minot should give up one seat to provide this.

We request a more representative makeup on this authority, based on total water usage. As it sits now, the rural water systems are all equally represented, and each have a seat on the board or authority, but other areas of the NAWS system such as Bottineau, Kenmare, Berthold, Mohall and Burlington are asked to share two seats to represent them.

In closing, we ask, as I stated earlier that the makeup of this board be reviewed and a fair representation, based on usage be considered.

I have included with my testimony, an exhibit from our interim water supply agreement between the State DWR and Minot for reference as to the approximate daily max usage. This exhibit was created by DWR staff and is has been modified to include Minot's approx. max daily usage and the percentage of water usage is added for information.