

February 1, 2023

House Energy & Natural Resources Committee  
c/o Representative Todd Porter, Chair  
State Capitol  
600 East Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505

**Re: House Bill 1391 – Opposition**

Dear Chairman Porter and Members of the House Energy & Natural Resources Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in opposition to House Bill 1391.

My name is Clifford Issendorf. I am a lifelong farmer in Bottineau County, a landowner, and currently the Bottineau County Water Resource Board Chair. I have served on the Bottineau County Water Resource District Board for over 40 years.

The Bottineau County Water Resource Board supports transparency and affected-party participation on all assessment matters. The Board supports notifying landowners of proposed projects and providing landowners an opportunity to be heard. The Board also supports the regular inspection, maintenance, and repair of assessment drains in order to protect the value of property taxed for establishment of the project.

The Board is not unsympathetic to individual cases that House Bill 1391 seeks to address. We believe there is a threshold at which the time, cost, and delay of conducting a landowner vote is well-justified. House Bill 1391 does not accomplish a balanced approach to setting that threshold. House Bill 1391 creates a situation where even though funds other than the special assessment tax could be available to cover all costs to maintain important drainage infrastructure, a vote of the landowners is still required.

I submit this written testimony to make record that the Bottineau County Water Resource Board is opposed to House Bill 1391 in its current form. We urge the Committee to vote “Do Not Pass” on this bill.

Sincerely,

Clifford Issendorf  
Board of Managers Chair,  
Bottineau County Water Resource District