

Testimony in support of North Dakota House Bill 1538-A Bill for an act to amend and reenact subsection 20 of section 20. 1-02-05 of the North Dakota Century Code.

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Submitted by: Cole Frenzel

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I have grown up in North Dakota as a sportsman, avid angler and fishing fan. I am grateful for the opportunities this great state has provided my family, friends and myself and all the priceless memories that have come along with it. In my opinion, I feel I am getting cheated of several opportunities this great state could provide and am writing to voice my opinion in support for House Bill 1538. North Dakota has seen a decrease of major tournament organizations because of the fee structure, whereas other surrounding states have benefitted. In my opinion this loss of major tournaments affects North Dakota communities, anglers, and tourism.

In 1998 my father drove myself and all my siblings to Bismarck, ND from Dickinson, ND to watch professional walleye Anglers weigh in for the PWT Classic Championship on the Missouri River in Bismarck, ND. I was 8 years old and that was one of the best experiences I can remember from my youth. With the current fee structure in place, we are robbing youth from the very same memories I was so fortunate to enjoy. It affects me personally because I grew up watching these major tournaments and now that I am old enough to enjoy competing in them I do not get this opportunity because of the fee structure North Dakota currently has. In my opinion many Avid Anglers appreciate the opportunity to compete at the highest level of fishing in their home state and on their home waters. The very same waters they grew up fishing with their dads, moms, uncles, brothers, cousins and closest friends or even made new friends from fishing in general. The very same waters they made memories on and spent thousands of hard earned dollars in boats, fishing poles, fishing tackle, gas etc. and all that money benefits locals. This tourism industry truly does help communities succeed, but with the current fee structure in place it only robs these local bait shops, stores and communities from those opportunities and tournaments are slowly diminishing due to the fee structure North Dakota currently has.

It is for these reasons that I support Bill 1538. This Bill in my opinion is important to local communities and its people, which benefit from these events through tourism and recreation and is a crucial part in empowering future generations of anglers to get exposure to angling and the outdoors.

Sincerely,

Cole Frenzel