

**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

**Date:** Feb. 3rd

**Submitted by:** Brian Bashore

Address: 2512 S. Moss Stone Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57110

**To:** Representative Porter and Members of the North Dakota House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

As a Professional angler, outdoorsman, and most importantly a Conservationist. I am writing to voice my support for your House Bill 1538.

In my opinion the financial burden the current legislation on tournaments and tournament fees has placed on tournaments that are held within North Dakota is much too restrictive. The result has been that the major tournament organizations have chosen to hold their events in other surrounding states that have much less restrictive fee structures. The loss of tournaments in our state affects our local communities with loss of tourism revenues and also affects me personally by reducing the number of events available for me to participate in each year. My favorite body of water in the US is Lake Sakakawea and I will participate at any major tournament held on that body of water. True Professional Anglers are some of the best conservationist caring for and giving back to the resource. Not being able to have major circuits come to ND due to the current fee structure is not just a choke hold on tourism but on conservation and awareness of North Dakota's great fisheries.

It is for these reasons that I overwhelmingly support Bill 1538. This Bill revising the language in the current legislation is important to the local communities in which these events are held and to the future of the sport that means so much to me personally. Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

*Brian Bashore*

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