

Michael R Starck

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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: January 30, 2023

Submitted by: Michael Starck, Member of the National Professional Anglers Association

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

As one of the 85 members of the National Professional Anglers Association (NPAA) who lives in North Dakota, I am writing to voice my support for House Bill 1538.

I am an avid angler who fishes the waters of North Dakota with my family as well as participating in a number of tournaments throughout the year. During these tournaments, I will spend numerous days away from my home in Bismarck. While fishing in preparation for the tournament, I need to buy gas, bait, and food. A lot of times these purchases are made in smaller communities throughout the state, putting money into these cities. I support this bill in hopes that it will increase such spending in the future. It is clear that the major tournament circuits have avoided coming to North Dakota in the last few years. These tournaments give local anglers an opportunity to showcase their talents as well as the amazing fishing that is available in the state on a national stage. When these tournaments are held in the state, many of the angler will come from out of state and spend a week or more supporting the communities that host the tournament. Studies have shown that an event can bring in as much as \$250,000.

I am also the father of two boys that love to fish. I would like to see them have the opportunity to one day compete against some of the best fisherman in the nation. The opportunities that young anglers have in other states today is truly amazing. I believe that the administrative rules set forth by the NDGF have negatively impacted these opportunities.

It is for these reasons that I overwhelmingly support Bill 1538. The revision of the language in the current legislation is of significant importance to the local communities in which these events are held and to the future of the sport that means so much to myself and the residents of North Dakota.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael R. Starek". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small mark to the left of the first letter.

NPAA Member (#1004)