

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: 2/1/2023

Submitted by: Lori Carter, Resident District 31, Mandan ND

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

As an angler's wife, a mother of two little kids, I would like to express my support of HB 1538.

My husband has fished professionally since 2010. Many of the professional tournaments have taken place in North Dakota, that is, until the North Dakota Game and Fish changed the rule, with administrative rule change during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Though it might be selfish, having big tournaments in our state was a win-win for our family, our communities and our state. It meant my husband and other anglers did not have to drive 17-hours one way, family and extended family were able to take in these events in-person instead of on a device, we were able to support local businesses, event sponsors and communities alike, out-of-staters were able to see our beautiful state first hand, 225+ anglers bought ND fishing licenses, the list goes on. Why the change? Many of our small communities are dying and events like these are an economic booster for them, but a 10% fee kills that opportunity as it's cheaper to go to a different state.

These events also expose our children to a sport they are not used to seeing on a professional level and a sport that gets them into an environment that is good for their mental health (we all know mental health is an issue in North Dakota), a sport that anyone can succeed at. Wouldn't it be great if our kids in North Dakota could have the same scholarship opportunities like those in Minnesota with the Student Angler Trail, which provides college scholarships for high school students.

We also enjoy attending an event called Fishin' For the Cure at Beulah Bay, thankfully this event has stayed. It's a charity event that helps local children suffering from childhood cancer and raises money for cancer trials. A hundred percent of the winners donate their money back. They rip up the checks. You can imagine how touching that is. The only check not ripped up is the check sent to the ND Game and Fish for the required 10% not sure where the 10% conservation fee goes but it must be a pretty important cause.

Thank you for your time,

Lori Carter

