

**NORTH DAKOTA**  
**SPORTFISHING**  
**CONGRESS**

P.O. BOX 2472 • BISMARCK, ND 58502

BARNES COUNTY WILDLIFE FED  
PO Box 148  
Valley City, ND 58072

BIS-MAN REEL & REC CLUB  
PO Box 2525  
Bismarck, ND 58502

DAKOTA ANGLERS  
PO Box 1411  
Jamestown, ND 58401

F.M. MUSKIES, INC.  
PO Box 2021  
Fargo, ND 58107

F.M. WALLEYES UNLIMITED, INC.  
PO Box 1017  
Moorhead, MN 56560

FRIENDS OF LAKE SAKAKAWEA  
PO Box 1853  
Bismarck, ND 58502

GREAT PLANERS TROUT & SALMON  
PO Box 1972  
Bismarck, ND 58502

LAKE REGION ANGLERS ASSN.  
PO Box 456  
Devils Lake, ND 58301

LURE EM FOR LIFE  
PO Box 547  
Bismarck, ND 58502

ND FISHING HALL OF FAME  
PO Box 445  
Garrison, ND 58540

RED RIVER AREA SPORTSMENS  
PO Box 1  
Wahpeton, ND 58074

UNITED SPORTSMAN OF WILLISTON  
PO Box 11393  
Williston, ND 58803

VOICES FOR LAKE OAHE  
PO Box 482  
Linton, ND 58552

**February 1<sup>st</sup> 2023**

**Submitted by: Richard Brueckner, Past President of the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress (NDSFC).**

**Dear Chairman Porter, Vice Chairman Anderson members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee,**

**On behalf of the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress, and the members of the 13 Fishing Clubs of North Dakota that we represent we ask the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee OPPOSE House Bill 1538.**

**HB 1538 removes conservation fees that are currently paid by sponsors of fishing tournaments. These fees go back to the local area where the tournament was held and are used to upgrade infrastructure for all users of the resource to enjoy. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department estimates that just over \$1 million has been invested in local communities through the conservation fee. HB 1538 instead institutes an application fee of up to \$250/tournament. This fee would stay with the Game and Fish Department and not be passed on to local communities. Additionally, it is the opinion of the Sportfishing Congress and the member clubs we represent that the regulation of fishing tournaments is best addressed through Administrative Rules under the purview of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and should not become part of the North Dakota Century Code through the passage of HB 1538. Maintaining these regulations in administrative code gives the flexibility to make changes throughout the biennium, rather than just through the legislative session.**

**The NDSFC has a long reputation of working with the ND Game & Fish Department on issues such as those addressed as concerns within House Bill 1538. We and our member organizations are committed to taking a lead role in working with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department in addressing those concerns and as needed working through the Administrative Rule process to implement any needed changes. For these reasons, the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress and the members of its 13 affiliated clubs respectfully request a "Do Not Pass" recommendation on HB 1538.**

**Thank You,**

**Richard Brueckner**

**North Dakota Sportfishing Congress**