



Representative Todd Porter, Chairman  
House Energy & Natural Resources Committee

Mark Haugen, President  
North Dakota EMS Foundation  
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Support of HB 1538, Related to Fishing Contests

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I am Mark Haugen, President of the North Dakota EMS Foundation. Our Foundation testifies in support of HB 1538.

The North Dakota EMS Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the state's EMS providers, ambulance services and quick response units; and it places a major emphasis on the continued viability of individual rural providers and response groups. Our goal is to promote Emergency Medical Services by providing leadership and educational opportunities through scholarships, grants, and by sponsoring education conferences, which are necessary to attract, sustain, and retain EMS professional in North Dakota.

To raise funds to meet our above-mentioned goals, the EMS Foundation sponsors an annual fishing tournament on Lake Sakakawea each year in August. The basis for our support lies in the proposed language found in section 2, subsection 2, stating that various types of listed non-profit organizations defined in Chapter 53-06.1, may retain 100% of the proceeds from the fishing contest. This proposed language will certainly give our Foundation increased flexibility in deciding how much of the entry fee should go back to the fishing tournament teams as cash prizes and how much may be retained for the Foundation to meet its stated goals.

In conclusion, the North Dakota EMS Foundation supports HB 1538, and we ask for a favorable recommendation by the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to give written testimony.