

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: 2/02/2023

Submitted by: Brandon Van Dusen

Address: 3111 43rd Ave NE Bismarck, ND 58503

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

As an avid angler and outdoorsman, I am writing to voice my support for your House Bill 1538.

I have been tournament fishing in North Dakota for 4 years. It started out as a onetime event to spend some time in the boat with a friend and to test our skills. After the first event I quickly realized this something I want to do forever. Tournament walleye fishing was able to bring out the competitive side of me I felt like I lost. It has been a great way to meet new people that I would not meet otherwise.

However, the fishing world can be a tough place to navigate. It is relatively expensive. If you do not have a close family member, friend or mentor to point you in the right direction, fishing North Dakota's great bodies of water can make novice anglers feel very overwhelmed. In my opinion North Dakota House Bill 1538-A can help with that. It would give all anglers especially the youth more opportunities to get involved in the hobby (lifestyle) we all love. North Dakota has some of the best fishing on the planet. That is something we should all be proud of and something we want everyone to be able to experience. I would love nothing more than to support the great state of North Dakota by giving people the opportunities I never had.

It is for these reasons that I support Bill 1538. This Bill in my opinion is important to local communities and its people, which would benefit from future events through tourism and recreation and is a crucial part in empowering future generations of anglers to get exposure to angling and the outdoors.

Sincerely,

Brandon Van Dusen