

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: 2/2/2023

Submitted by: JR Carter, Resident District 34, Mandan ND

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

Thank you for the opportunity.

I speak today as a District 34 ND Resident, Professional Fisherman, ND Army Guard Veteran, and most importantly a father.

I strongly support this legislation HB1538. Tournament fishing has been apart of my life for a long time. The current century code, the game and fish administrative rule change to \$5000 cap, then the game and fish administrative rule change back to \$10,000 has been a point of contention for far too long. The fact of the matter is the Game and Fish Department has a boss and you are sitting right in front of me. This legislation HB 1538 takes care of the Game and Fish burden of fishing tournaments and makes it clear for everyone involved. It supports youth angling, high school fishing, veteran organizations, fraternal, virtual angling, charitable events, and tournaments to host big and small in our communities. This Bill addresses what it needs to address, century code in relation to fishing contests. This bill doesn't address fish, boat ramps, watercraft registration, campgrounds or planting trees that's up to some other legislation.

In this debate, I have heard tournament fisherman don't pay their fair share, I've paid over \$25,000 dollars in excise tax just on boats, \$3000-\$6000 a year in just boat gas, not to mention staying at local communities and truck travel in the last 5 years. I pay income tax on my earnings. I buy a ND watercraft license and a ND fishing license just like everybody so I am just as entitled to fishing.

I've hosted many Future Angler Fishing Clinics and the future of ND fishing is very important to me.

I will be available for questions if you may have any, thank you for your time.

JR Carter