



FRIENDS OF
LAKE SAKAKAWEA

PO Box 1853, Bismarck, ND 58502

Dear members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

Representative (Chairman) Todd Porter

The Friends of Lake Sakakawea (FOLS) is not opposed any to fishing tournament in North Dakota. However, our board of directors has reviewed this bill and is in opposition. FOLS is *asking the House Committee to oppose HB 1538 give it a “DO NOT PASS” recommendation.*

While we may agree with some of the concepts proposed in HB 1538, regulating fishing tournaments is best addressed through administrative code/rules and NOT through century code. This only micro-manages the North Dakota Game and Fish Commissioner and the agency. Maintaining these regulations in administrative code provides the flexibility to make changes throughout the biennium through an open hearing process rather than just through the legislative session.

One item we believe a vital part of this bill is Conservation Fees. These are important in that they need to be a part of the process as it helps with partially funding projects as stated best by one of our constituents:

“Sitting on the Mountrail County Park Board we have been able to access these 10% conservation funds over the years from the game and fish for improvements to boat ramps, replacement of docks, maintenance of fish cleaning stations, installation of cameras and such. I’m 100% not in favor of this bill as written”.

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FOLS believes HB 1538 adversely affects non-profit organizations by letting LLC’s have a much broader stance with fishing tournaments. Some tournaments can and will become total fundraising events within the written provisions within HB 1538.

For these reasons, the Friend of Lake Sakakawea respectfully requests a “DO NOT PASS” recommendation on HB 1538.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Fleck
President, Friends of Lake Sakakawea

