



**Senate Appropriations Education and Environment Division
Hearing for SB 2020
January 19, 2023
Testimony of Dave Lang, North Dakota Water Users Association**

Chairman Sorvaag and members of the Senate Appropriations Education and Environment Division, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2020. The Water Users Association is the state-wide member organization dedicated to protecting, developing, and managing North Dakota's water resources. We have more than 150 members including local, statewide and regional organizations in North Dakota who have an active interest in water. The Water Users has as its members many of the project sponsors who receive their funding from SB 2020.

As the Division works on developing the plan for appropriating Resources Trust Fund dollars for water projects for the 2023-2025 biennium, the Water Users would ask the Division to consider using the funds available in the Water Stabilization Fund for projects this biennium and to include language in SB 2020 to repeal the fund. Inflation is driving up the costs to complete projects at an alarming rate. Unfortunately, we do not see that improving in the near future. We believe that the longer we wait to complete projects, the more expensive they will be. We have funds in the Water Stabilization Fund and sponsors have projects that are in need of funding. We should put those dollars to work now instead of waiting to fund projects over a longer period of time at a higher price.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.