

Testimony
HB 1038—Department of Water Resources
Senate Judiciary Committee
Senator Diane Larson, Chair
March 14, 2023

Chair Larson, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee—I am Andrea Travnicek, the Director of the Department of Water Resources. I am testimony in support of HB 1038. Specifically, section 25, which provides the technical correction updating language referencing the State Engineer to the Department of Water Resources.

In the 2021 session, House Bill 1353 combined the Office of the State Engineer with the agency known as the State Water Commission into the Department of Water Resources. It also created the position of a director and established the agency as a member of the Governor’s cabinet. The State Engineer maintains all regulatory oversight, while the Director oversees the department as a whole. The language in section 61-32-03.1 before you today is appropriately updating a reference of the State Engineer to the Department of Water Resources as the entity that would receive notice of a county water resource district-approved subsurface water management permit.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.