

NORTH DAKOTA
SPORTFISHING
CONGRESS

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BARNES COUNTY WILDLIFE FED
PO Box 148
Valley City, ND 58072

BIS-MAN REEL & REC CLUB
PO Box 2525
Bismarck, ND 58502

DAKOTA ANGLERS
PO Box 1411
Jamestown, ND 58401

F.M. MUSKIES, INC.
PO Box 2021
Fargo, ND 58107

F.M. WALLEYES UNLIMITED, INC.
PO Box 1017
Moorhead, MN 56560

FRIENDS OF LAKE SAKAKAWEA
PO Box 1853
Bismarck, ND 58502

GREAT PLANERS TROUT & SALMON
PO Box 1972
Bismarck, ND 58502

LAKE REGION ANGLERS ASSN.
PO Box 456
Devils Lake, ND 58301

LURE EM FOR LIFE
PO Box 547
Bismarck, ND 58502

ND FISHING HALL OF FAME
PO Box 445
Garrison, ND 58540

RED RIVER AREA SPORTSMENS
PO Box 1
Wahpeton, ND 58074

UNITED SPORTSMAN OF WILLISTON
PO Box 11393
Williston, ND 58803

VOICES FOR LAKE OAHE
PO Box 482
Linton, ND 58552

March 11, 2023

Submitted by: Richard Brueckner, President of the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress (NDSFC).

Chairman Patten, Vice Chair Magrum and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

On behalf of the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress an organization of 13 Fishing Clubs from across the state of North Dakota. By a majority vote we ask the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee give House Bill 1538 a 'do not pass' recommendation.

HB 1538 removes conservation fees that are currently paid by sponsors and participants of fishing tournaments. These dollars are returned to the communities where the tournaments are held. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department estimates that between 2011-2022 just over \$1 million has been invested in local communities through conservation fees.

HB 1538 does not return any funds to the impacted communities, there will be a significant loss of investment in infrastructure at local recreation areas - infrastructure used by North Dakotans and visitors alike.

While we may agree with some of the amendments in HB 1538. It is of the majority's opinion, that regulating fishing tournaments is best managed by the experts and specialists at our North Dakota Game and Fish Department through administrative code and rules process, not through century code. Maintaining these regulations in administrative code gives the flexibility to make changes throughout the biennium, rather than just through the legislative session once every couple of years.

The NDSFC has a long reputation of working with the ND Game and Fish Department on issues such as those addressed as concerns within House Bill 1538. We are committed in taking a lead role in working with ND Game & Fish Department on just such matters and as needed working through the Administrative Rule process to implement any needed changes.

For these reasons by majority vote, the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress respectfully request a "Do Not Pass" recommendation on HB 1538.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Richard Brueckner
President, North Dakota Sportfishing Congress
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