

March 14, 2023

Submitted by: Richard Mohan

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

I respectfully ask the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee give House Bill 1538 a “do pass” recommendation.

I have been a long time North Dakota resident and sport angler. I support HB 1538 and the changes to the definition of fishing contests. These changes will better serve high school fishing leagues and other youth fishing events. I also support the elimination of the onerous conservation fees that discourage local, regional & national events that represent significant economic benefits to North Dakota communities. Current rules also penalize first responder organizations from retaining the fishing event earnings they would otherwise use to support their response to local emergencies.

Some might argue that these changes could be better addressed through the administrative rule process. Unfortunately, the ND Game & Fish Department has been engaged in addressing these issues for several years and to date has refused to make any of the requested changes.

Please give HB 1538 a “do pass” recommendation.

Respectfully Submitted,

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