

March 15, 2023

Chairman Dale Patten Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Senate Committee members,

I am Daryl Dukart a retired Dunn County Citizen.

I ask your support to HB1538, legislation addressing fees levied on fishing contests. The current approach by North Dakota Department of Game and Fish to levy fees on gross proceeds for all fishing tournaments has resulted in tournaments relocating to other states, negatively impacting local and statewide economies. HB 1538 can expand the accessibility of the state's attractive fishing destinations, welcoming fishing tournaments back to North Dakota communities and creating economic opportunities across the state.

HB 1538 will welcome both major and minor tournament series back to North Dakota, repealing costly conservation fees that have driven tournaments to other states. By enabling nonprofit organizations to retain all proceeds from contests, organizers can maximize tournament impacts for contests benefiting veterans, schools, and other charities. It also is an opportunity for local small rural areas of our state to gain some major economic strength as these types of event generate generous dollars spent into small communities.

Please support a do pass from the State Energy and Natural Committee.

Daryl Dukart