

To: House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

From: Robert Thompson
Member, North Cass Water Resource District
Member, Elm River Joint Water Resource District
Former Member, North Dakota State Water Commission -- 24 Years

Date: January 29, 2025

Subject: Do Pass on House Bill 1218

Ken McIntyre, originator of the first “Water Management Board,” now the Rush River Water Resource District, contended that water needs to be managed. Ken stated that if you don’t drain, you can’t farm. Farming practices require 10 to 13 trips over the field each year. That is true management. HB 1218, on the other hand, seeks to address micro-management.

The State Water Commission did not have “Economic Analysis” in our time because micro-managing agriculture was not fair to the farmers. The “Economic Analysis” process is micro-management that seems eerily similar to federal interference. The “Economic Analysis” process seems designed to impede cost-share for drainage projects, cost-share that can help farmers who need drainage.

If you don’t drain, you can’t farm.

Please pass HB 1218