

Testimony in Favor HB 1218
House Energy & Natural Resources Committee
January 30, 2025

Chairman Porter and members of the Committee,

My name is Brian Vculek, and I am from Crete in Sargent County. I am writing to encourage a do pass on HB 1218, which proposes increasing the cost threshold for projects requiring Economic Analysis with the Department of Water Resources.

Raising the requirement for Economic Analysis from \$1 million to \$5 million will help save money and reduce tax assessments for landowners impacted by drainage and flood protection projects. As a farmer, I view drainage as a great way to improve land and increase economic development in my rural community. Properly drained fields increase production, reduce crop loss, and allow production of potatoes and other high-value specialty crops.

I trust local Water Resources Boards to develop, manage, and analyze projects costing below \$5 million. State overview can have its place, but I feel the current limit is too low, adding unnecessary cost and project delays. For these reasons, I encourage the Committee to vote in favor of HB 1218. I appreciate the Committee's time and the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Brian Vculek