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**Lance Gaebe on behalf of
North Dakota Farmers Union
Testimony in Support of SB 2153
House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
March 6, 2025**

Chairman Porter and members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Lance Gaebe. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of North Dakota Farmers Union in support of Senate Bill No. 2153.

SB 2153 will implement a technical correction to clarify that the definition of a water project includes a water conveyance project. This adjustment is needed to fix an oversight in changes made by the 2019 Legislature.

North Dakota Farmers Union members recognize the importance of effective water management in ensuring the long-term sustainability of our agricultural economy and protecting local infrastructure.

Efficient water conveyance is essential to:

- Provide farmland drainage relief, safeguard crops, and improve soil health.
- Enhance agricultural productivity and bolster the agriculture economy.
- Safeguard roads, bridges, and other vital infrastructure, reducing costly repairs and ensuring public safety.

We appreciate work of water resource districts to manage water movement and implement critical water conveyance projects. SB 2153 will allow the State Water Commission to continue to assist local water managers in this important role.

North Dakota Farmers Union asks this committee to give a “Do Pass” recommendation on SB 2153.