



**North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Testimony in Support of SB 2276
House Agriculture Committee
March 20, 2025**

Chairman Beltz, Members of the House Agriculture Committee, for the record my name is Dan Wogsland representing the North Dakota Grain Growers Association. NDGGA appears before you today in support of SB 2276.

The following are some of the key benefits of SB 2276:

1. Enhanced Regional Coordination

- By mandating joint water resource boards for projects spanning multiple counties, SB 2276 fosters collaboration among local entities.
- This approach ensures that water projects are planned and executed with a comprehensive, regional perspective rather than fragmented decision-making.

2. Improved Project Efficiency and Cost Effectiveness

- Joint boards can pool financial and technical resources, leading to more cost-effective solutions.
- Streamlined decision-making reduces duplication of efforts and administrative burdens on individual districts.

3. Stronger Flood Mitigation and Water Management Strategies

- North Dakota's major river basins, including the Red River, Missouri River, Devils Lake, and James River, require coordinated efforts for flood control, drainage, and water conservation.
- A unified approach ensures that projects are designed to maximize benefits while mitigating unintended consequences for neighboring counties.

4. Greater Accountability and Fair Distribution of Costs and Benefits

- The bill ensures that those benefiting from a project contribute fairly to its costs, preventing undue financial burdens on single districts.

- A joint board structure provides better oversight, transparency, and stakeholder engagement.

5. Alignment with North Dakota's Long-Term Water Resource Goals

- The state has long prioritized sustainable water management and infrastructure improvements.
- SB 2276 aligns with these objectives by reinforcing inter-county cooperation and strategic project implementation.

Conclusion:

SB 2276 is a forward-thinking approach to water resource management, ensuring that vital projects are developed in a manner that benefits communities equitably while maximizing efficiency. Therefore, Chairman Beltz, Members of the Committee, NDGGA would respectfully request a Do Pass on SB 2276 and would urge the full House to concur.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.