

Testimony on Behalf of Southwest Water Authority Regarding the Benefits to Southwest North Dakota

From:

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Chairman Vigesaa and member of the House Appropriations committee, I am writing today in support of House Bill 1020 and specifically in support of the Southwest Water Authority Pipeline Project.

We have Southwest Water for our house, and I am very satisfied with the quality of the water that is provided. It's clear and it's good tasting. The water we had before getting Southwest Water was the color of tea or light coffee. Visitors had a hard time drinking the discolored water. Many people would not drink our well water.

If you had white clothes, they were only white until you had to wash them. After that, the clothes had a dingy look, never to be white again. The appliances, shower, and tub would stain from our well water and was very hard to keep looking nice.

We had to give easements for the pipeline installation which I would do again. Southwest Water was good about coming back when asked to fix problems. We had some areas where the pipe was laid that settled and needed to be filled and repacked.

Southwest Water monitors the meter readings carefully. One month they caught an abnormal meter reading and noticed an inconsistency with our water usage. They notified us and proceeded to check it out. It was discovered we had a leak in the pipe that they proceeded to fix.

I hear some people talking about the price of the water bill being too high. I don't feel that the price is out of line because everything has seemed to increase in price. We use well water for our cattle. A well isn't cheap to drill either.

The Southwest Water project took some time from the start (when they signed people up for the project) to its completion. I feel it was worth the wait. I urge all legislative officials to vote for bills regarding Southwest Water Authority and other state water projects provided by HB 1020.

Sincerely,

Linda Price
Customer of Southwest Water
Farmer/rancher in Oliver County, North Dakota