

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1020
Senate Appropriations
Education and Environment
March 11, 2025**

**Brandon Bochenski, Mayor
City of Grand Forks, ND**

Chairman Sorvaag, members of the committee. Please accept my written testimony in support of House Bill 1020 with funding for the Red River Water Supply Project (RRVWSP) and Municipal Water Grants.

The RRVWSP is an important drought mitigation project that serves a large part of the state including major cities and rural water systems alike. Grand Forks and Fargo have been working collaboratively to develop an Assurance Policy that will ease the potential burden on smaller users to ensure the maximum utilization of the project.

I am proud of the work done by the Lake Agassiz Water Authority (LAWA) to represent the end users of the project ensuring. LAWA couldn't be more grateful for the work and partnership with the State of North Dakota, to include a 75% cost share and favorable financing terms from the Bank of North Dakota.

All of the appropriated funds from last biennium have been allocated, proving the project construction is on schedule.

Grand Forks is seeing tremendous growth in value added agriculture processing, which relies heavily on water supply for production. Having water supply even in drought conditions allows the economy a resilience that will allow further investment in large production facilities.

Grand Forks also relies on Municipal Water Grants to help offset the cost of needed water infrastructure. Both for commercial and residential users. Having Municipal Water Grants funded as much as possible helps Grand Forks get our water to the end user at the lowest possible cost to the customers.

With the need to fund both the RRVWSP and Municipal Water Grants we feel it is important to keep the Resources Trust fund at 20%.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Brandon Bochenski
Mayor of Grand Forks