

House Bill No. 1531 Introduction and Support Testimony

Senate Agriculture & Veterans Affairs Committee Hearing

March 20, 2025, 3:15PM

Chair: Senator Luick

The reason for House Bill No. 1531:

Data is necessary to continue advocating for irrigation and water conveyance for production agriculture in North Dakota. As an example: a study was completed in Nebraska targeting the lack of irrigation; the state was leaving \$11 Billion on the table.

The Bill: (amended version 25.1245.01001)

- Directs the Commissioner of Agriculture to contract with a consultant to study the potential benefits of:
 - Increased irrigation
 - Improved water conveyance
 - Ramification of failing to construct and implement irrigation infrastructure as originally designed under the Pick-Sloan Flood Control Act of 1944
 - Economic contribution between irrigated land and nonirrigated land
 - The economic contribution between using subsurface water management systems and not using subsurface water management systems
 - And any other additional factors that would improve and expand irrigation

Funding Requested:

One-time funding for up to \$75,000 for the Commissioner of Agriculture for the purpose of contracting with a consultant for the study.

Mr. Chair and Committee members, I am requesting your favorable consideration of House Bill No. 1531 with the proposed amendment (version 25.1245.01001).

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Schreiber-Beck, District 25 Representative