



North Dakota Grain Growers Association Testimony in Support of HB 3018 Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee March 21, 2025

Chairman Luick, Members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee, for the record my name is Dan Wogsland representing the North Dakota Grain Growers Association (NDGGA). NDGGA appears before you today in support of HCR 3018. This resolution calls for a much-needed study on water and wetlands regulations in North Dakota, focusing on the complex issues surrounding jurisdictional overlaps and the taxation of inundated lands.

As we all know, our state's water resources are vital to our economy, our environment, and our way of life. But the current regulatory landscape is often confusing, creating uncertainty for landowners, businesses, and government agencies alike. This resolution recognizes the urgent need for clarity and proposes a comprehensive study to shed light on these issues.

Here's why this study is so important:

- **Clarity and Consistency:** The study will provide valuable insights into the overlapping jurisdictions of federal, state, and local agencies when it comes to water and wetlands management. This will help us identify potential conflicts and inconsistencies, paving the way for a more streamlined and efficient regulatory framework.
- **Fairness and Equity:** The current system of taxing inundated lands is often inconsistent and unfair. This study will allow us to examine different approaches and recommend solutions that ensure a more equitable and transparent system for property owners.
- **Informed Decision Making:** The study will provide the Legislative Assembly with essential information to develop well-informed and effective policies for the protection and management of our precious water resources.

NDGGA believes this study will be a valuable investment in our future. It will give us the tools we need to create a more efficient, equitable, and sustainable system for managing our water and wetlands resources. Therefore, Chairman Luick, Members of the Committee, NDGGA would respectfully request a Do Pass recommendation on HCR 3018 and would urge the full Senate to concur.