



Chairman Patten and Honorable Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, for the record, my name is Rachel Grosz with North Dakota Farm Bureau (NDFB). I am writing to express our organization's support of HB 1218. We commend the sponsors for their proactive efforts in water management. This bill aims to refine the existing framework for comprehensive water development plans in creating a more holistic approach, which will streamline water projects, ensure comprehensive planning and timely implementation.

NDFB is comprised of over 28,000 member-families, which create and drive our policy. The following are NDFB policies relevant to this bill:

We oppose any attempt to diminish agriculture and livestock's priority ranking for the waters of the state under the jurisdiction of the State Water Commission

We encourage state, counties, and townships to help and not hinder field tiling, since it helps reduce erosion and runoff water, thus improving the overall quality of watersheds

We support the agricultural use of drain tile both as a conservation tool and as a flood mitigation tool. We oppose regulatory policy of damming or blocking drain tile without just compensation.

NDFB supports efforts which will foster collaboration, leading to more informed decision making and tailored planning; ultimately, HB1218 works to engage stakeholders and alleviate bureaucracy. This bill ensures expeditious implementation of water management; bettering agriculture, conservation efforts, and North Dakota's rural economies. NDFB respectfully urges a "Do-Pass" recommendation from your committee. Our membership, and farmers throughout the state, as well as our colleagues in agriculture organizations thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

Rachel Grosz
Government Affairs Liaison
NDFB North Dakota Farm Bureau

Fargo

1101 1st Ave. N. | PO Box 2064, Fargo, ND 58107-2064
Phone: 701-298-2200 | 1-800-367-9668

Bismarck

4900 Ottawa St. | PO Box 2793, Bismarck, ND 58502-2793
Phone: 701-224-0330 | 1-800-932-8869



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