



**Testimony in Support HB 1557**  
**Presented to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee**  
**Prepared by Bernie Dardis, Mayor, City of West Fargo**  
**Friday, March 21, 2025**

Chairman Patten and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

The City of West Fargo is asking for a Do Pass Recommendation on HB 1557 for the creation of a Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program.

Providing clean water is arguably one of our most important roles as a City Government, and while there are great opportunities for cost shares and loans for other types of water projects, e.g. drinking water, there are few opportunities for funding assistance on critical wastewater infrastructure projects.

When we are not able to fund and complete these projects, needs can become exacerbated. In West Fargo alone we have tens of millions of dollars in wastewater projects in our Capital Improvement Plan over the next 5 years, and cities across the state have similar needs. We know this program won't be able to support all projects across the state, but when it comes to keeping sanitary systems safe for North Dakotans, and keeping the costs down for local residents, any level of assistance is needed and greatly appreciated.

This program, and the \$25 million appropriation, is a great way to help cities across North Dakota address critical wastewater improvement needs, while relieving some of the burden on local, residential taxpayers.

Thank you for your consideration, and again we ask for a Do Pass Recommendation on HB 1577.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernie Dardis".

Bernie Dardis, Mayor  
City of West Fargo  
[bernie.dardis@westfargond.gov](mailto:bernie.dardis@westfargond.gov)