



Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Hearing for SB 2118

January 16, 2025

Testimony of Harrison Weber, Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association

Chairman Patten and members of the committee, my name is Harrison Weber, and I am the executive director of the Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association. This association represents more than 2,700 growers, raising sugarbeets on about 400,000 acres and delivering those beets to five factories up and down the Red River Valley of the North.

It is vital that our growers can get their beets to market. Safe, well-maintained roads and infrastructure are essential. Water is important to growing the best quality beets, but if the water damages the roads and infrastructure, our growers suffer the impacts.

North Dakota Century Code 24-03-08 provides appropriate conveyance standards for road authorities, water boards, and landowners to avoid damages due to undersized culverts and bridges. Efficiently moving water so there are no negative impacts on our roads and infrastructure should be a top priority.

The Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association is apprehensive regarding the wording in SB 2118; it will curb the ability of North Dakotans to efficiently move and manage the water traveling through our roads and infrastructure system. Our Association supports a proposed amendment to SB 2118 suggested by the North Dakota Water Resources Districts Association. This proposed amendment offers up the possibility of efficiently managing the water at a local level and in a timely manner.

The Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association encourages full consideration of SB 2118 and asks for support of the North Dakota Water Resource Districts Association amendment. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.