

**Written Testimony of Loren Myran
for the Public Hearing on the
Red River Valley Water Supply Study**

Good Evening

My name is Loren Myran. I am the Chairman of the Southwest Water Authority speaking on behalf of the Southwest Water Authority Board of Directors and staff, several of which are with me this evening. I am speaking in support of the Red River Valley Water Supply Project which is supported by our full board.

As a member of the Southwest Water Authority I know first hand how important the Southwest Pipeline Project and delivery of Missouri River water has been to our region of the state. We currently provide quality water to 26 communities and about 2600 rural customers. Our total annual water usage is about 1.2 billion gallons. This is a very small fraction of the water stored in Lake Sakakawea and would amount to lowering the lake level less than one-half inch. Quality water has had a significant impact on economic development and quality of life for our citizens.

We are fully aware of the needs in the Red River Valley, especially after experiencing several years of drought in southwest North Dakota with dugouts and wells going dry. The Red River Valley has waited far too long for their fair share of quality water from the Missouri River system. We fully support the preferred alternative and would urge you to go forward with project development as quickly as possible.

Thank you

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