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**AGASSIZ WATER USERS DISTRICT**  
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February 15, 2006

I am Clark Cronquist, President of Agassiz Water Users District, Gilby, ND and a resident of the Red River Valley.

Climatic research suggests that a drought, as occurred in the 1930's, could occur before 2050. This makes urgent the need to find alternative water sources as we now rely on the Red River and it's tributaries as our primary water sources.

To rely on aquifers in an extreme drought as a safe source of water for industrial and domestic use may be woefully inadequate. For example, the Elk Valley aquifer plan now for extreme drought conditions is to convert irrigation water rights to municipal use. This could have a devastating impact on the regions agricultural and ag processing communities.

Not enough research has been done to document the reliability of the identified aquifers to know their sustainability as a water source in a prolonged drought.

We do know that Minnesota has put restrictions on the use of their aquifers that make them an unacceptable source.

Agassiz Water Users District gets their water supply from the relatively small Inkster aquifer. In the short-lived droughts of 1980 and 1988-89, the aquifer was drawn down to dangerously low levels for use as a reliable supply.

The GDU import to the Sheyenne River alternative is North Dakota's preferred solution for several reasons: It can meet the water needs of the Red River Valley now, as well as in the future. It is flexible enough to accommodate industrial expansions and provides environmental benefits as well as being the least costly of the plans being considered.

The Missouri River can be put to beneficial use for the entire state. The impact to the Missouri will be minimal, even during times of serve drought, less than 1/2 a percent of average flow will be needed.

I support the GDU import to the Sheyenne River alternative as the preferred alternative for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project.

*Clark F. Cronquist*  
 Clark F. Cronquist  
 President  
 Agassiz Water Users District