

TESTIMONY
RED RIVER VALLEY WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

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My name is Brad Koetz and I live in rural Leonard, North Dakota. I want to express my support for the Preferred Alternative for the Red River Water Supply Project. I am a farmer and operate a hog operation in addition to working at the local grain elevator. I am a member of the Board of Directors for Cass Rural water District. As a result I am well aware of the need for a stable long term water supply for all of Eastern North Dakota. If an extended draught were to develop in the Red River Valley the economic damage to the region and the State of North Dakota would be devastating. If a severe drought were to occur today the water shortage in the Red River Valley would be as high as 46%. If this were to occur most of the surface water sources such as Lake Ashtabula and the Red and Sheyenne Rivers would simply dry up.

Consequently, I am in favor of the Preferred Alternative for the following reasons:

1. The project can supply supplemental water to Eastern North Dakota during periods of drought.
2. It does not have any significant negative environmental impacts.
3. During a drought the project will provide much needed flows in the Red and Sheyenne Rivers which will provide some environmental benefit.
4. It is the most effective solution at the least cost of the alternatives that have been analysed.

Thank you.