

February 15, 2006

RE: Public hearing directed at the Red River Valley Water Supply Project held in Fargo, ND.

Greetings:

Thank you Mr Anderson

I am John Leininger from Binford, ND and am a board member of the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District. I whole-heartedly support the project and the preferred alternative, which calls for the transporting of water from the Missouri River on route using the McClusky Canal and a pipeline along highway #200 to the Sheyenne River just south of Cooperstown. It is critical to all in the Red River Valley that we move forward with this project as soon as possible.

If the Red River Valley experienced a 1930's drought, there would be little or no water flowing in the Red River. If we do nothing and we experience a 10 year drought, the Red River Valley would be short water every year during the drought period. Forty-two per cent of North Dakota's population lives in the Red River Valley. Fifty-two per cent of North Dakota's sales and use tax collections are derived from the 13 Red River Valley counties. The projected negative economic impact on the state of North Dakota would be \$20.4 billion based on the 2050 projected economy and based on today's dollar. The projected tax revenue benefit for the state of North Dakota, if the water transfer is in place, could be at least \$3.17 billion.

It is also important to recognize that the import of Missouri River water to the Sheyenne River alternative would have no significant negative environmental impact and the biota transfer risk is very near zero. Other positive environmental benefits include improved fish habitat, low head dam modifications, the Lake Ashtabula conservation pool would be maintained and the projected 50 year economic benefit to the fishery would be \$393.5 million. *we would hope to see*

In summary, the people living in the Red River Valley need this stable water supply and we must move forward with this project as quickly as possible. We support and prefer the GDU import to the Sheyenne River Alternative as the preferred transfer of the Missouri River water. This alternative is also the least cost.