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Perham, MN 56573  
 March 27, 2006

Bureau of Reclamation  
 P.O. Box 1017  
 Bismarck, ND 58502-1017

RE: Red River Valley Water Supply Project - Testimony  
 from Lois Stoutenburg  
 Ottertail County, Minnesota

I oppose pumping ground water from Ottertail  
 and Becker counties, Minnesota, and piping it to  
 Fargo, N.D. and the valley.

First, it is troubling that information on this project  
 was not issued months ago in the form of major news  
releases to all the media. We citizens should have  
 been informed and instructed to watch the "legals"  
 for public hearings. The <sup>(first mtg)</sup> one local article was too  
 little, too late on such an invasive, major proposal.  
 Further - Ottertail County is nearly twice as large  
 as the average county of 36 townships. Therefore,  
 most citizens likely never even realized when you  
 were here on site with your research. I didn't.

Secondly, I am like many rural, country, small  
 town folks who deeply care for this environment

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and this region's diversity, from forests to fields, lakes + hills. We willingly take on the ownership of responsibility in protecting and caring for these amazing gifts of nature while we are here on Earth. Because there is a need to function in an orderly fashion in our pursuits, local, representative governments, township, city and county boards form the structure in our lives, beyond the family life.

We are fiercely possessive of our rights and our responsibilities in protecting our place in these United States.

Now then - it should be understood - that state or local governments do NOT relinquish their control of their state's resource(s) to another state or agency. And never should a non-renewable resource be given away along with our own power to control its use.

Should the need arise - all MN border counties would coordinate to fill their <sup>VALLEY</sup> tankers with drinking water, you can be sure.

It should be suggested, that populations existing in areas of water shortages if not already, should certainly

already be implementing a very comprehensive plan(s) for water conservation, reclaiming & recycling.

Indeed, a city can control its growth. Logic and responsibility tell us the additional growth can be established near the resource rather than the irresponsible growth in a flood plain that has historically been short on ground water supplies.

The concerned leaders in the valley need to have a "meeting of the minds" with those "irrepressable" "rascally" DEVELOPERS - one would think. Think: RESPONSIBILITY

The Red River Valley Water Supply Project for piping this (OTTERTAIL/BECKER CO.'S) ground water is not logical nor<sup>a</sup> responsible solution.

Transferring Western N.D. water to the valley should work - The cries over "biota" transfer seem silly since our waterfowl are known to cross state and national borders, thus they carry.

Sincerely  
Lois Stoutenburg

~~Lois Stoutenburg~~ P. 3

P.S. I grew up in the valley - ("I've seen floods & I've seen rains" ---) Elevation is a "good thing"