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Red River Valley Water Supply Project
Bureau of Reclamation
Dakota Area Office
P.O. Box 1017
Bismarck, ND 58502-1017

202 North 3rd Street
Grand Forks, ND 58203

P.O. Box 315
East Grand Forks, MN 56721

p: 701-772-7271
f: 701-772-9238

www.gochamber.org

OFFICIAL FILE COPY RECEIVED		
MAR - 8 2007		
REPLY:	YES	NO
INFO. COPY TO:		
DATE	INITIAL	TO
2/27/07	EW	Signe Ricks
3/12	DB	DEBBY
CLASSIFICATION		
PROJECT		
CONTROL NO.		
FOLDER I.D.		

Gentlemen:

I appreciated the opportunity of testifying in support of the Red River Valley Water Supply Project, in Fargo, on the 28th of February.

The enclosed copies of my testimony, the Chamber resolution, and numerous letters of support for the Dakota Water Resources Act show statewide support for the delivery of water from the Garrison Reservoir to eastern North Dakota.

We look forward to completion of the project and support the GDU Import to Sheyenne River Alternative.

Elmer Hillesland, Member
The Chamber, Grand Forks & East Grand Forks
North Dakota State Water Commission

Comment Sheet for the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement Red River Valley Water Supply Project

The Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement Red River Valley Water Supply Project (SDEIS) was released on January 31, 2007. As part of the public review process, comments on the report should be sent to Red River Valley Water Supply Project, Dakotas Area Office, Bureau of Reclamation, P.O. Box 1017, Bismarck, N.D., 58502-1017. Comments should be postmarked by Monday, March 26, 2007.

(Please Print Clearly)

Name Elmer Hillesland, member

Organization and Address _____

The Chamber, C.F. & E.G.F.
N.D. State Water Commission

Phone (701) 775-6649 FAX _____ E-mail _____

Comments:

Mar 7, 2007
My testimony supporting the
Dakota Water Resources Act of 1997
also applies today as support for
the Red River Valley Water Supply
Project.

This testimony was presented
in Fargo, on February 28th, in
support of the Red River Valley
Water Supply Project.

Please refer to my letter
and other enclosures.

*Attach additional sheets if necessary

Please mail your comments to the address on the back of this form, or FAX your comments to 701-250-4326, or e-mail your comments to Signe Snortland at ssnortland@gp.usbr.gov.

The names and comments of those making written or oral statements on this process will become part of a public record. You may request that your name and/or address be withheld from public release. Those requests will be honored to the extent permissible by law.

DAKOTA WATER RESOURCES ACT OF 1997

Testimony of the Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce by Elmer Hillesland 2/19/98

Distinguished members of the panel, I am excited to be here and the Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce is excited to be a part of this process.

Our Water Policy Position of 1992, revised in 1996, supports Garrison Diversion. The Grand Forks Chamber has also, unanimously, adopted a resolution endorsing the Dakota Water Resources Act of 1997.

The following Chambers of Commerce have joined with us, as of this date, to express their support: Fargo Moorhead, Minot, Dickinson, Jamestown, Valley City, Wahpeton, Grafton and East Grand Forks. This list will be updated as support grows.

Too much water will not always be our problem. In the thirties the Red River was a dead river. Old timers tell us they could walk across the river without getting their feet wet.

Ninety-six percent of the surface water in North Dakota is in the Missouri River basin. Less than four percent is in eastern North Dakota, where most of our people live.

We must not allow this window of opportunity to pass us by.

Bi-partisan support for the Dakota Water Resources Act of 1997 by our congressional delegation, Governor Schafer and our state legislative leaders is commendable.

A copy of our resolution is attached.

Thank you!

**GRAND FORKS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

RESOLUTION 98-01

**In Support of the
Dakota Water Resources Act of 1997**

WHEREAS, the Garrison Diversion Project was reformulated in 1986 and there have been significant changes in the state since; and

WHEREAS, the state still has tremendous water resource needs, including MR & I water supply, economic development, irrigation, tribal and fish and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the Dakota Water Resources Act of 1997 would provide funds for MR & I water supply projects in North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota including the Southwest Pipeline Project, the Northwest Area Water Supply project and others and would provide a water supply for the Red River Valley; and

WHEREAS, Dakota Water Resources Act of 1997 would provide for agricultural economic development and would provide for further protection of the wetlands and natural resources of the state; and

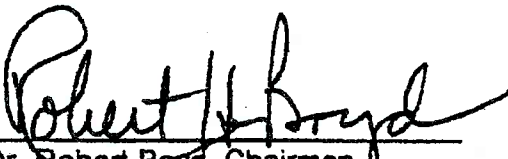
WHEREAS, the Dakota Water Resources Act of 1997 would continue to protect and preserve the hydropower component of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program; and

WHEREAS, the Dakota Water Resources Act of 1997 would provide for the completion of the Garrison Diversion water supply facilities in an environmentally sound and economically feasible manner; and

WHEREAS, the Dakota Water Resources Act of 1997 would offset the significant sacrifice that has been made in North Dakota and South Dakota for the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce does hereby express its strong support for the proposed amendments to the Garrison Diversion Project contained in S1515 and HR3012 also known as the Dakota Water Resources Act of 1997; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the passage of these bills in Congress be accomplished as quickly as possible in order to address the water needs of the state in a timely manner.


Dr. Robert Boyd, Chairman
Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce

January 23, 1998

**VALLEY CITY AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

P.O. Box 724
205 NE 2nd Street
Valley City, North Dakota 58072-0724

Phone: (701) 845-1891

January 2, 1997

Lonnie Laffen
Chairman of the Board
Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce
202 North Third Street
Grand Forks, ND 58203

Dear Lonnie,

The Board of Directors of the Valley City Area Chamber of Commerce met on January 2, 1997. At the meeting, the Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce's adopted Water Policy Position was discussed.

The Board of Directors of the Valley City Area Chamber of Commerce would like to go on record as endorsing this revised Water Policy Position and will support your promotion of the Policy.

Sincerely,



Susan Anundson
Executive Vice President

Wahpeton Area Chamber of Commerce

January 6, 1997

Elmer Hillesland
Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce
202 North Third Street
Grand Forks, ND 58203

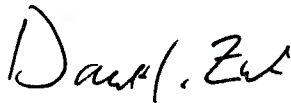
Dear Elmer:

The Wahpeton Area Chamber of Commerce has received your request on the issue of the revised Water Policy Position. It is the decision of the Wahpeton Area Chamber of Commerce to endorse the concepts of this policy.

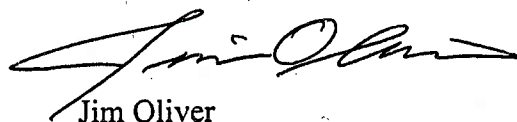
We understand that there are numerous questions, concerns and costs that will still have to be addressed in the near future, however, we know the importance of the Garrison Diversion project to the future growth of North Dakota.

Please keep us informed on this issue and we hope we can be of help in the future.

Sincerely,



Dan Zink
President



Jim Oliver
Executive Director



East Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce

218 4th Street NW - P. O. Box 295 - East Grand Forks, Minnesota 56721 - Phone (218) 773-7481

January 21, 1997

Elmer Hillesland
Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce
202 N Third Street
Grand Forks ND 58203

Dear Elmer:

At the East Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce January 14, 1997, Board of Directors meeting, we reviewed the Water Policy Position. The Board agreed to support the Grand Forks Chamber's Water Policy Position. We are pleased to be part of the coalition you are building concerning water.

Please send us a list of all the other chambers and groups that are supporting this position. Good luck with this effort.

Sincerely,

Diane Blair
President



Grafton Area Chamber of Commerce

P. O. Box 632 - 432 Hill Ave. - Grafton, ND 58237 - (701) 352-0781 - Fax (701) 352-0799

February 10, 1997

Bob Gustafson
Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce
202 North Third Street
Grand Forks, ND 58203

Dear Bob:

I am writing in regards to your letter from January 8, 1997, concerning support for a common water policy.

At the January 9th board meeting, the Board of Directors unanimously voted to support the Water Policy position adopted by the Grand Forks Chamber.

If we can be of any further assistance to you please feel free to call upon our chamber.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce A. Geddes". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Joyce A. Geddes

cc. Elmer Hillesland



"Leading the Jamestown Area Toward Greater Business Vitality and Promoting Economic Prosperity"

February 18, 1997

Elmer Hillesland
Agribusiness Committee
Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce
202 North 3rd St.
Grand Forks, ND 58203

Dear Mr. Hillesland:

Our Board of Directors met on February 13, 1997 and formally agreed to support the Water Policy adopted by the Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce.

We, too, believe there needs to be water policies for North Dakota and look forward to further information from your group regarding this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eileen Monson".

Eileen Monson
Executive Vice President

2-17-98

To whom it may concern:

I feel that it is time that we complete the Garrison Diversion Project. We have stalled it long enough. Everytime it gets reauthorized we seem to lose a part of it. We have lost most of the irrigation part, and that was what sold the project in the first place and water for Devils Lake, if Devils Lake had been stabilize they would not be flooded today. So lets get it over with.

Roger Johnson
RT 9 Box 26A
Tolna, N. D. 58380

NORTH DAKOTA

Water Users
Association

Michael A. Dwyer
Executive Vice President

1501 N. 12th St. • Box 2254 • Bismarck, ND 58502 • (701) 223-4615

February 24, 1997

Mr. Elmer Hillesland
Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce
202 North Third Street
Grand Forks, ND 58203

Dear Mr. Hillesland:

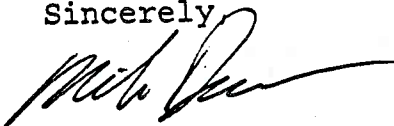
The North Dakota Water Users Association has endorsed the Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce Water Policy Position, which you adopted October 25, 1996. We commend you for your efforts to help complete the Garrison Diversion project and would like to thank you for taking a leadership role in the process.

Organized in 1959 to protect, develop and manage our water resources, the North Dakota Water Users Association is a non-profit organization of individuals, farmers, businesses, ranchers, companies, irrigators, cities, rural water systems, corporations, and other persons and entities who are concerned about North Dakota's water.

Providing a stable, high quality water supply to eastern North Dakota is one of our main objectives. Completing the Garrison Diversion project is essential for economic development, agriculture processing, industry, municipal use, recreation, irrigation and wildlife. In order for us to realize the benefits of Garrison Diversion our entire state must work together.

Thank you again for the leadership you are providing for water development. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at 223-4615.

Sincerely



Mike Dwyer
Executive Vice-President



GARRISON DIVERSION
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 140
CARRINGTON, N.D. 58421
(701) 652-3194
FAX (701) 652-3195
gdcd@daktel.com
www.garrisondiv.org

February 26, 1998

Elmer Hillesland, Commissioner
State Water Commission
2709 10th Street S
Grand Forks, ND 58201

Dear Elmer:

The Board of Directors and I would like you to know how much we appreciate your dedication and determination in regard to the Dakota Water Resources Act. Your testimony at the Fargo hearing, along with the letter writing campaign that you and the Grand Forks Chamber put together are important contributions to the District and the State. Thanks for all the hard work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Warren L. Jamison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Warren L. Jamison
Manager



GARRISON DIVERSION
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 140
CARRINGTON, N.D. 58421
(701) 652-3194
FAX (701) 652-3195
E-MAIL:
gdcdcarr@ndsuxt.nodak.edu

February 27, 1997

Elmer Hillesland
Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce
202 North 3rd St.
Grand Forks ND 58203

Dear Mr. Hillesland:

I commend you for your efforts to take the leadership and support the completion of the Garrison Diversion Project. Your awareness of the need for a stable, high quality water supply to eastern North Dakota promises to be very helpful.

Completing Garrison Diversion is essential for economic development, agriculture processing, industry, municipal use, recreation and wildlife. In order for North Dakota to realize the full benefits of a completed project, the entire state must work together.

Thank you again for your commitment to water development across the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warren L. Jamison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Warren L. Jamison
Manager



GARRISON DIVERSION
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 140
CARRINGTON, N.D. 58421
(701) 652-3194
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gdc@daktel.com
www.garrisondiv.org

March 18, 1998

Dr. Robert Boyd, Chairman
Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce
202 North 3rd Street
Grand Forks, ND 58203

Dear Dr. Boyd:

On behalf of the Garrison Diversion Board of Directors and myself, I would like to thank the Grand Forks Chamber for their resolution in support of the Dakota Water Resources Act. It is so important for the citizens of North Dakota to stand together as we enter into hearings and debates for passage of the much needed Act and long awaited completion of the Garrison Diversion Project.

The Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce, through its resolution and letters to fellow chamber offices urging support of the Dakota Water Resources Act, has displayed the spirit of teamwork that North Dakota is so well-known for.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Warren L. Jamison".

Warren L. Jamison
Manager

WLJ/las