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**Written Testimony of Donald Flynn
for the Public Hearing on the
Red River Valley Water Supply Study**

Good Evening

My name is Donald Flynn. I am the Vice-chairman of the Southwest Water Authority speaking on behalf of the Southwest Water Authority Board of Directors and staff. I am speaking in support of the Red River Valley Water Supply Project which is supported by our full board.

As a member of the Southwest Water Authority I know first hand how important the Southwest Pipeline Project and delivery of Missouri River water has been to our region of the state. We currently provide quality water to 28 communities and about 3000 rural customers. Our total annual water usage is about 1.4 billion gallons. This is a very small fraction of the water stored in Lake Sakakawea and would amount to lowering the lake level less than one-half inch. Quality water has had a significant impact on economic development and quality of life for our citizens. Although the Red River Valley Water Supply Project will require more water it is still a very small fraction of the Missouri River system flows.

We fully support the preferred alternative and would urge you to go forward with project development as quickly as possible. Should the Red River Valley experience drought conditions similar to those we have experienced in southwest North Dakota the past seven years it could create a devastating impact on the economic well being of our entire state. It has taken far too long for the Red River Valley to receive their fair share of quality water from the Missouri River system.

Thank you