

**Testimony from the Mayor Tom Erdmann, City of Carrington
House Appropriations Committee
Bismarck, North Dakota – November 9, 2021**

The City of Carrington is a small water user in central North Dakota supporting the Red River Valley Water Supply Project. I am Mayor Tom Erdmann, testifying in support of a request for \$50 million in ARPA funds to continue the forward progression of the Red River Valley Water Supply Project. In addition, I support the recently amended version of the Senate bill, which includes legislative intent to dedicate ARPA funding to water supply, economic development and flood control.

The Red River Valley Water Supply Project is a long-term emergency water supply and an economic development initiative that will deliver water from the Missouri River to central and eastern North Dakota via a buried pipeline. The project will provide a reliable water source across central and eastern North Dakota, which is critical to future economic development opportunities for our communities.

It's vital to plan for our future water supply, as there have already been missed industrial opportunities in central and eastern North Dakota due to insufficient water supplies. The Red River Valley Water Supply Project will provide economic development opportunities by making water available to industry. The Project has a future outlook to 2075 and will serve over 30 water systems across central and eastern North Dakota for more than 50 years.

A key factor to small users' participation in the Project is maintaining affordability. While we agree the Project is a critical investment for our communities, we are concerned about our local share to participate. ARPA funds would make this project more affordable for us as small users, as the additional funding could reduce the Project's timeline; therefore, reducing the overall cost of the Project.

Project construction is already underway; however, additional funding is critical for continued progress, which brings us to our request for \$50 million in ARPA funds. Accessing ARPA funds will enable key areas of the project to be completed in a timelier manner, making a significant difference in the affordability of this Project to us small users.

A more affordable buy-in to the Red River Valley Water Supply Project will secure a reliable water supply for our future, allowing smaller water users the ability to pursue and capitalize on potential economic development opportunities which will provide long-term benefits to our communities. Please consider appropriating \$50 million to the Red River Valley Water Supply Project for the economic future of North Dakota.

Respectfully,

Mayor Tom Erdmann, City of Carrington