

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Thursday, March 16, 10:00 am

Oppose HB 1538 - Senate

Blair H. Ihmels

Derby Chair - Great Planers Trout and Salmon Club

Board Member - Friends of Lake Sakakawea

Member - ND Aquatic Invasive Species Committee

Phone 701-319-1267

Good morning, I'm Blair Ihmels and I have been the Derby Chairman of the Great Planers Trout and Salmon club's annual event for over 25 years. Our club has had this event for 36 years and a good part of our purpose is to give kids an opportunity to hook a Chinook. Each year we have gladly provided our conservation money to the ND State Park in Pick City who is our gracious host. This partnership has helped fund the barracuda fish cleaning station at the park and most recently the sound system at the main shelter of the park. Our relationship with Park Managers like the late John Tunge and now Greg Corcoran has given us the opportunity to give feedback to what the public needs at the park. Now these items are available to everyone not just our club members.

Moneys given through the structure of the ND Game & Fish Department in the form of conservation fees give back to the area and the resource. Everyone needs to **pay to play**.

Please give careful consideration to protect the resource by protecting ND waters from Aquatic Invasive Species. These events can expose our resource.

I oppose HB 1538- Senate, and support the fishing tournament permitting process stays with ND Game & Fish and allow them to make changes through administrative rules process. Conservation fees are good for ND and the resource!

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.