



FRIENDS OF  
**LAKE SAKAKAWEA**

PO Box 1853, Bismarck, ND 58502

*Dear members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee,*

*Senator (Chairman) Dale Patten, Senator (Vice Chairman) Jeffery Magrum*

The Friends of Lake Sakakawea (FOLS) is not opposed to fishing tournaments in North Dakota. However, our board of directors has reviewed this bill and is in opposition. FOLS is *asking the Senate Committee to oppose HB 1538 and give it a “DO NOT PASS” recommendation.*

While we may agree with some of the amendments to HB 1538, regulating fishing tournaments is best addressed through administrative code and rules process, NOT through century code. This only micro-manages the North Dakota Game and Fish Director and the agency. Maintaining these regulations in administrative code provides the flexibility to make changes throughout the biennium through an open hearing process rather than just through the legislative session.

This bill eliminates Conservation Fees which are returned to communities where the tournaments are held. These are important in that they help fund community projects as stated best by one of our constituents:

***“Sitting on the Mountrail County Park Board we have been able to access these 10% conservation funds over the years from the game and fish for improvements to boat ramps, replacement of docks, maintenance of fish cleaning stations, installation of cameras and such. I’m 100% not in favor of this bill as written”. Eric Jaeger D: 701.862.5259 O: 701.862.3115***

HB 1538 does not return any funds to the impacted communities and adversely affects non-profit organizations by letting LLC’s have a much broader stance with fishing tournaments. Some tournaments can and will become total fundraising events within the provisions of HB 1538.

***For these reasons, the Friends of Lake Sakakawea respectfully requests a “DO NOT PASS” recommendation on HB 1538.***

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Fleck

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