

**Testimony of Garrison Diversion Conservancy District
to SBARE
December 2023**

Since 1969, the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District has provided financial support to the Oakes Irrigation Research Site. Due to the reallocation of funding to other projects, in 2013, a plan was set into motion for NDSU to take over full funding of the site after Garrison Diversion completed major upgrades and improvements to the facility. A proposal was developed to include Garrison Diversion's assistance with constructing a new building at the site, a six-year funding exit plan and passage of the land on to NDSU.

Garrison Diversion provided an initial match toward the heated shell of a new building, which is approximately a 60 percent match. In turn, NDSU will be expected to cover the remaining 40 percent of the building costs, which would complete the office, lab and conference space in the new building, in addition to finishing the shop area.

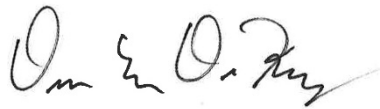
In order to secure land ownership for the future, Garrison Diversion purchased five acres of land for the building site, which will be donated to NDSU once construction of the building is complete.

Garrison Diversion strongly supports irrigation development within North Dakota, but our commitment is coming to an end and we are asking the SBARE to fully fund the completion of the building's interior. finishing the inside of the building.

The Oakes Irrigation Research Site is a highly effective irrigation research facility, and the valuable data gained from the research site throughout its history has

positively impacted the agriculture industry for over 50 years. Now, with the facility upgrades, the Oakes Irrigation Research Site will continue to benefit farmers and irrigators for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. E. Oakes", written in a cursive style.

Garrison Diversion General Manager