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Letter from Governor Aandahl to Roy Wier Regarding Garrison Dam Pool Level Legislation, July 2, 1949

Fred G. Aandahl
North Dakota Governor

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FRED G. AANDAHL
GOVERNOR

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
Office of the Governor
BISMARCK

Garrison
11
July 2, 1949

The Honorable Roy W. Wier
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Wier:

On page 3396 of the March 29 Congressional Record - House, I notice that you voted for the Lemke-Burdick amendment limiting acquisition of land at Garrison Reservoir in North Dakota to 1830 feet. A similar amendment may soon be presented from the floor again.

May I advise that I as Governor and as a member of the Missouri Basin Inter-Agency Committee and the North Dakota State Water Commission have always unanimately supported the full construction of the 1850 level. We have repeated made statements to Congressional committees to that effect.

Complete construction of the Garrison project to the 1850 foot level is to the best interest of the state, the basin and the nation for the following reasons:

1. Construction of Garrison Dam above 1830' level most economical at \$3.53 per acre foot storage.
2. Cost \$12.15 below 1830'.
3. Higher level will provide 10 to 20 per cent more electrical power.
4. Give greater storage capacity for irrigation.
5. Hold back more water for flood control and dry season sustained river flow downstream.
6. This is not just a 40-year project but a permanent improvement. Elevation 1850' would add about 140 years to life of reservoir because of increase siltation capacity. Greatest economy in construction will come with original preparation for that purpose.
7. With this development will come modest increase in population and a larger market for products of industrial areas to the

The Honorable Roy W. Wier

-2-

July 2, 1949

east. North Dakota will remain an agricultural state except for possible lignite coal industry.

8. Damage to upstream area has been overstated and overemphasized. Property owners in path of great public work must be compensated for losses but cannot stand in way of area-wide development.

Should this question again come to the floor of the House of Representatives, I wish to ask your support for the full 1850 foot capacity at Garrison.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fred S. Condehl". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Governor