

As someone who grew up surrounded by North Dakota's agriculture, I have noticed that the water industry is the building block of it all. Not only does the water industry support life in all aspects, but it also supports behind-the-scenes maintenance of crop sufficiency. If we did not have the water industry, our crop system would fail miserably, and food insecurity would be prominent. Along with this, our support of the sacred habitats would weaken, leading us to disobey North Dakota's promise to protect wildlife. The water industry supports our habitats, and our people.

Food security in North Dakota means that farmers and ranchers can provide and sell the crops needed to supply us with food, and do it easily. Though there are many factors that alter the rates of food insecurity, the water industry is in control. The water industry supplies livestock, game animals, and other creatures of the North Dakota habitats. Through this, we gain food security because we are guaranteed a meat source. Now you may argue, "Your meat source needs food too, not just water." Well, what supports the animal's food source? The water industry does. The water industry supplies crops, soil, and smaller animals with the nutrients needed to sustain life. If you think about a basic food chain, plants are at the very bottom. In North Dakota, crops start the chain and support every habitant. Water grows plants, plants feed prairie dogs, hawks and coyotes then eat the prairie dogs. Or, favoring humans, deer eat crops, humans eat deer. Either way, crops supply food security for our whole ecosystem. But really, it is the water industry that starts the food chain.

Another way that the water industry benefits North Dakota is the constant need for jobs. The water industry opens up endless opportunities to support our state and do so for a good cause. It is almost guaranteed that you can land a job in this industry, which is beneficial to our state by increasing the amount of blue collar jobs. As an environmentally-heavy state, with our national parks and wildlife conservations, jobs in the water industry support these habitats, which support our state in the long run.

Throughout North Dakota's history, the water industry has only gotten stronger; we can support agriculture better than we ever have before. Habitats are thriving, and food security is fairly strong with our abundance of farmers and ranchers. This is all due to our ability to provide water. Thanks to the water industry, I can say that our future generations will be supported, along with the wildlife in years to come.