



WRITTEN TESTIMONY PROVIDED TO
ND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
DURING THE 67th LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
On February 2nd, 2021
IN SUPPORT OF
HB 1380
REGARDING THE
LEGACY FUND EARNINGS TRANSFER TO THE
HOUSING INCENTIVE FUND

Chairman Delzer
Vice Chairman Kempenich
Members of the ND House Appropriations Committee

I testify today in support of the 3.0% transfer to the Housing Incentive Fund that HB 1380 proposes to be made from the Legacy Earnings Fund, if this bill is approved. My support is based on the assumption that the biennial allocation to the HIF fund will be in the \$20 million range which is 3.0% of an historical 4.5% earnings of the Legacy Fund which last reported has a balance of \$7.9 billion.

The need for affordable housing is definitely present in the State and persistent. The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) reports: “Across North Dakota, there is a shortage of rental homes affordable and available to extremely low income households (ELI), whose incomes are at or below the poverty guideline or 30% of their area median income (AMI). Many of these households are severely cost burdened, spending more than half of their income on housing. Severely cost burdened poor households are more likely than other renters to sacrifice other necessities like healthy food and healthcare to pay the rent, and to experience unstable housing situations like evictions.”

Data from the 2018 American Community Survey (ACS) reports that 17,400 North Dakota ELI Renter Households are Severely Cost Burdened, paying more than 50% of the household’s income on housing costs, to include utilities. **This is 65.7% of the of the 26,485 ELI Renter Households!** Statistics developed by the NLIHC estimate a 12,980 unit deficit of Affordable Rental Units for ELI Households. Much, much need.

Thank you in advance for you favorable consideration of HB 1380 and the transfer of 3.0% of Legacy Fund Earnings to the Housing Incentive Fund.

Respectfully submitted,

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