



House Finance and Taxation Committee – HB 1414

Representative Craig Headland, Chair

January 27, 2021

Chairman Headland, Members of the Committee:

My name is Brian Ritter and I'm President of the Bismarck Mandan Chamber EDC. Please accept this testimony on behalf of our organization's approximately 1,200 members in support of HB 1414.

Our organization's 2021 Legislative Agenda includes an item that reads, *"Advocate for legislation that supports the recovery and stabilization of the regional business community and workforce, including legislation providing employers access to relevant resources and opportunities for financial stability to aid in short-term relief and encourage long-term economic growth."*

HB 1414 would be a step towards both recovery and stabilization for certain businesses as it allows retailers to *"...deduct and retain the tax collected on the first one hundred thousand dollars in sales subject to sales tax..."* during 2021. Furthermore, this action is targeted to retailers with less than 16 full-time equivalent employees (FTE). That's important to note because 56% of our members have less than 10 employees.

The State of North Dakota has actively supported our businesses throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and we would respectfully ask that you continue to do so, whether it's through the passage of HB 1414 or other legislation that assists them.