

Testimony

**House Finance and Taxation Committee
SB-2137
March 12, 2021**

Honorable Chairman Headland:

The Greater Fargo Moorhead Economic Development Corporation (GFMEDC) is writing to affirm our support for SB-2137 which would provide a data center sales tax abatement similar to the one that sunset at the end of 2020.

As a regional economic development organization our focus remains strongly trained on industries that hold great promise for the state's economic future, strengthen the composition of local industry clusters, and support continued economic diversification. Data Centers provide critical infrastructure that enables the full potential of emerging technology sectors like Precision Agriculture, Autonomous Technology, and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). Furthermore, policy like SB-2137 signals to innovators in these data intensive industries that our state is in a position to support their current and future data processing and cloud computing needs.

The benefit of data centers is not reserved only for emerging industries but also provides a competitive advantage for traditional industries like healthcare, finance, engineering, and more, as these industries become more data intensive each year. Policies like SB-2137 would not only put us on more even footing with other states in attracting data centers but would also strengthen the global competitiveness of companies that are already here. This legislation is important to ensure we are competitive with our neighboring states and give North Dakota a chance to attract data centers that diversify the economy and balance our state's electrical system.

We believe strongly in this legislation to enhance North Dakota's economy and to create a lasting impact to the state and urge your support SB-2137 as you consider this important public policy.

Sincerely,



Joe Raso
President & CEO