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Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
Bismarck, ND

Testimony: Jonathan Rosenthal, AICP, Economic Development Administrator

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Senate Bill 2139 Urging a “Pass” Recommendation

Dear Members of the Committee:

The City of Minot would like to express its enthusiastic support for Senate Bill 2139 sponsored by Senators Lee, Burckhard, Bekkedahl and Kreun and by Representatives Dockter and Keiser.

The creation of *neighborhood zones* as a proposed addition to the North Dakota Century Code and the existing Renaissance Zone legislation will provide municipalities in North Dakota the important opportunity to incentivize housing rehabilitation improvements for neighborhoods located throughout a city.

The proposed program changes allow the necessary flexibility for local governments to identify and then include the most promising neighborhoods in the program. We assess the level of organization and commitment from the community and the level of organization of local property owners. The City appreciates that the bill sponsors plan to give localities substantial latitude to choose the best redevelopment opportunities from amongst all our neighborhoods.

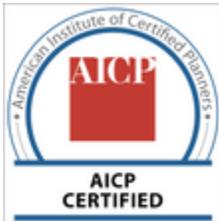
Nearly a decade later, Minot is still addressing issues caused by severe flooding in 2011. It had a disproportionate effect on lower income residents. This worthy program can assist in addressing these ongoing concerns. When the program can be combined with a portion of a local CDBG allocation it can really spur rehab.

The City of Minot thanks all of you for your consideration and commitment to improving our neighborhoods.

For all these reasons we strongly recommend the passage of SB-2139.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Rosenthal, AICP, Economic Development Administrator
City of Minot



Cc: Mayor Shaun Sipma
Minot City Council
Harold Stewart, City Manager
Brian Billingsley, Community & Economic Development Director
Shane Goettle, Special Assistant City Attorney