



Testimony of Jennifer Greuel
Economic Development Association of North Dakota
In Support of HB 1141
March 31, 2021

Chair Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:

The Economic Development Association of North Dakota represents more than 80 large and small and rural and urban economic development organizations on the front line of growing businesses and communities in North Dakota. The primary purpose of the organization is to promote the creation of new wealth throughout North Dakota to develop more vibrant communities and improve quality of life. It is for these reasons our organization and its members want to express support for HB 1141.

One of EDND's top legislative priorities for the past few sessions has been related to the diversification of the state's economy. North Dakota has long benefitted from energy and agriculture being the leading pillars of its economy. However, relying heavily on these industries has caused a boom and bust cycle several times over the state's history. The more the state supports investment in other industries, the more stable our economy and tax base will become.

EDND generally supports any funding for economic diversification projects. One tool to help bring new industries to the state is further investment in programs such as the Innovation Technology Loan Program (LIFT) as part of a comprehensive statewide strategy. The UAS and technology fields are quickly becoming an important piece of North Dakota's economy, and the more we can attract similar companies, the more we could potentially see companies making investments in not only eastern North Dakota, but also other parts of the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for HB 1141 and for your continued commitment to keeping North Dakota globally competitive and diversifying the state's economy.