



**Testimony  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Senate Bill 2345**

**November 9, 2021**

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee. The Valley Prosperity Partnership (VPP) is an initiative led by business executives, joined by economic development and higher education leaders, to advance and advocate for shared strategic economic development opportunities for the Red River Valley region and for North Dakota.

The business executives that comprise the VPP desire to strengthen and diversify our economy. They feel that one of the best means of doing so is by investing state dollars into the research, development, and commercialization enterprise of the state and into entrepreneurial companies in emerging, technology-driven industries.

The LIFT program has already impacted North Dakota's economy by investing meaningful resources into many innovative companies with exciting ideas and high potential. Adding additional resources to the legacy innovation fund to support technology advancement makes a lot of sense and we wholeheartedly support this investment in research, development, and commercialization.

Thank you for your consideration, and please know that business leaders throughout the state support funding for research and development to strengthen and diversify our economy.

# VALLEY PROSPERITY PARTNERSHIP STEERING COMMITTEE

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Cooperative  
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