

**Senate Finance & Taxation  
Chairman – Senator Jessica Bell  
March 10, 2021**

**Testimony By: City of Minot  
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**HB 1425**

Thank you for the opportunity for the City of Minot to submit testimony in favor of House Bill 1425.

The proposed legislation regarding a Legacy Infrastructure Loan will greatly benefit the City of Minot in its ability to affordably fund the local cost share for our city's largest infrastructure project, namely, flood control.

I want to emphasize that the City of Minot is funding the local cost share portion for the entire Enhanced Mouse River Flood Control Project, not just the portion that runs through Minot, and the cost of debt service is substantial. As such the ability to access long term, low interest funding through the proposed "revolving loan fund" will aid in the ability to leverage our dollars more effectively with less strain on the local tax base.

Ideally, our local Finance Director has indicated that a 40-year term would allow a much greater affordability level. At the current rate of construction, the Mouse River Enhanced Flood Protection project will take at least another 20 years to construct. However, the 30-year term, as outlined in this legislation, is better than what will be available in the open bond market in years to come. So, while we prefer the 40-year term, we believe this bill can fulfill a vital purpose for the state at the proposed 30 years.

The bill also offers a greater opportunity to Minot and numerous other communities around the state to more affordably fund other local infrastructure projects outlined in subsection 7 and 9. Specifically, as our community has and continues to grow, we anticipate investing in a wastewater treatment facility in the next five years as outlined in the Minot Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

With substantial infrastructure needs both in Minot and across the state of North Dakota we strongly urge a Do-Pass recommendation on HB 1425.

Thank you.