

**Greater North Dakota Chamber
HB 1431
Senate Finance and Tax Committee
March 17th, 2021**

Chair Bell and members of the Finance and Tax Committee, my name is Arik Spencer, President and CEO of the Greater North Dakota Chamber (GNDC). GNDC is affiliated with the US Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers and supports House Bill 1431.

GNDC supports fiscally responsible infrastructure funding initiatives that do not increase costs to businesses. Further, GNDC believes a portion of the Legacy fund earnings should be invested in one-time projects that improve the state's infrastructure, support economic diversification, and promote workforce development.

HB 1431 accomplishes these objectives by funding key projects, which otherwise would not be funded during the 21-23 biennium at a cost less than the cost of inflation. The passage of HB 1431 also demonstrates to North Dakota citizens uses for the Legacy Fund beyond paying for general obligations of the state.

Chair Bell, this concludes my remarks. I urge the committee to give HB 1431 a do pass recommendation.