



March 4, 2021  
Senate Government and Veterans Affairs  
Chairman Shawn Vedaa  
HB 1146

Chairman Vedaa and members of the committee. For the record, Blake Crosby, Executive Director, North Dakota League of Cities. For full disclosure, I am also the NDLC representative on the Statewide Interoperability Committee (SEIC).

As SEIC reviewed HB 1435, passed in 2019, to provide a \$1500 cost-share for handheld and mobile it was discovered that the bill inadvertently did not allow fire and ambulance districts personnel to be eligible for the cost-share. This was not the intent of the bill or the legislature either and this bill would correct that oversight. As most fire and ambulance districts are volunteer based, they especially need the cost share.

Radios for those per entities were already figured into the cost share formula so there is no additional cost other than costs related to federal law that requires encrypted radios.

This bill will make sure all our responders can receive funding for a portion of their radio costs as we work to have a robust state interoperability radio network.

I ask for your DO-PASS on HB 1146. Thank you for your time and consideration.