

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2139**

**Senate Political Subdivisions Committee**

**February 4, 2021**

**Andy Conlon, Senior Community Devel. Planner, City of Grand Forks, ND**

Chairman Burckhard and members of the Senate Political Subdivisions Committee, my name is Andy Conlon (Senior Community Development Planner), and I represent the Planning and Community Development Departments for the City of Grand Forks. I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and express our support for Senate Bill 2139.

The Renaissance Zone has proven its value in spurring reinvestment and building the tax base over the years, and the application of similar strategies in other areas of North Dakota cities in the form of neighborhood zones only serves to enhance those impacts on a broader scale. Downtown Grand Forks has seen a resurgence in development over the past several years, in no small part due to the incentive power of the Renaissance Zone. While the whole community has benefitted from this development, the downtown neighborhood has particularly so.

We see immense potential in numerous other neighborhoods throughout Grand Forks and believe neighborhood zones would be a powerful means of driving reinvestment to benefit not only those residents who live in that particular area directly, but indeed the whole community. SB 2139 presents an excellent opportunity to apply proven strategies to do just that in targeted areas throughout our community and as such receives our wholehearted support.

The City of Grand Forks asks for a DO PASS recommendation for SB 2139.