



Testimony on HB 1486
Presented to the House Government and Veteran Affairs Committee
Prepared by Tina Fisk, West Fargo City Administrator
Thursday, Jan. 26, 2023

1 The City of West Fargo would like to take this opportunity to submit testimony in
2 opposition of HB 1486. The fiscal note indicates political subdivisions participating in the
3 NDPERS retirement system will pay an additional 20.2% in employer contributions. This bill
4 would have a significant fiscal impact on cities like the City of West Fargo who
5 participate in the plan.

6 Local governing bodies take tremendous pride in building and managing
7 effective budgets that are fiscally responsible for the residents they are serving. Often
8 times, these budgets include tough decisions regarding competing interests and needs
9 of residents. No Commissioner or Council Member takes this lightly. One of the most
10 consistent struggles is balancing the level of service our residents expect with the
11 expense of staffing for that level of service.

12 We all can agree that we do need to address issues with ND PERS. It has been an
13 incredible tool that has helped the City of West Fargo recruit and retain talent in a
14 competitive job market. We need to look for solutions that will continue to help political
15 subdivisions find talent for jobs that are often difficult to fill. However, creating a new,
16 significant recurring expense for cities that taxpayers will have to fund should not be the
17 solution.

18 For these reasons, we ask this committee for a DO NOT PASS recommendation
19 on HB 1486.

20 Tina Fisk, City Administrator
21 City of West Fargo