

January 20, 2023

Senator Kannianen, Chair
Finance & Taxation Committee
ND Capitol Building
Bismarck, ND 50504

Senator Kannianen and the Finance & Taxation Committee,

Thank you for taking a few minutes to read this letter of support for Senate Bill 2220. I appreciate your time and consideration in listening to my input on this matter.

I am the executive director for the Traill County Economic Development Commission. My job revolves around working with cities in Traill County (Mayville, Portland, Hatton, Hillsboro, etc.) to help position them for success. Two key components for present and future success are population growth and increasing housing inventory for workers.

Demographically, Traill County's average age is 41 years of age. There are 3,276 households with an average household income of \$73, 113. The average single-family home price has increased, but the 2020 U.S. census shows average valuation of \$152,700. New construction, of course, cannot match existing home prices. In other words, it will cost much more than \$152,000 per household to grow available housing inventory.

The partnership between private capital investment and the State of North Dakota's assistance would help our rural communities increase and improve their housing inventories. An absolute must for these communities to retain these kids when they graduate, or to attract similarly aged people (people who can work in our schools, universities, manufacturing plants, etc.) is housing that is available and affordable.

If you have questions or concerns you can contact me via email: (director@traillcountyedc.com), on my office phone at (701) 636-4746 or even on my cell at (701) 430-1644.

Sincerely,

Jim Murphy (Sig)

Jim Murphy
Executive Director, Traill County Economic Development Commission



