



Testimony of Laura Lacher
Economic Development Association of North Dakota
In Support of SB 2018
March 17, 2025

Chairman Nathe and members of the House Appropriations – Education and Environment Division:

I am Laura Lacher, executive director for the Economic Development Association of North Dakota (EDND). EDND represents state economic development organizations on the front line of economic development efforts throughout North Dakota. The organization's primary purpose is to support the creation of new wealth and the diversification of North Dakota's economy. I am here to express EDND's support for SB 2018.

EDND has a long-standing and complementary relationship with the Department of Commerce. They are a premier partner providing valuable tools, programs, and resources for the economic developers in our state.

The Department of Commerce plays a critical role in fostering economic growth by supporting workforce development initiatives, helping communities build infrastructure, and providing grants and financial assistance to local businesses. Their efforts are instrumental in helping North Dakota communities attract new businesses, retain existing ones, and expand job opportunities. Furthermore, the Department's focus on enhancing quality of life through community development initiatives makes North Dakota a more attractive place to live and work. From supporting housing projects to investing in tourism and cultural development, Commerce's work directly contributes to strengthening local economies and improving the well-being of our residents.

EDND appreciate the opportunity to voice support for SB 2018 and for your continued commitment to advancing North Dakota's economic growth and prosperity. Thank you.