



Letter of Support S.B. 2014

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Chair Monson and members of the House Appropriations Government Operations Committee,

My name is Cale Dunwoody, and I have the distinct pleasure of serving as the Vice President of Public Policy for the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce (FMWF Chamber). On behalf of our over 1,700 members, I respectfully offer testimony in support of S.B. 2014, specifically as it relates to homelessness.

At the FMWF Chamber, our mission is to protect and promote business, inspire individuals, cultivate communities, and influence action. To promote more vibrant, thriving communities and economies, we urge strategic investments into understanding and addressing homelessness across the state. In North Dakota, the annual count of homeless individuals has increased more than 26% over the past four years. Solutions to this can only be found through private and public collaboration to target root causes and build stronger local communities.

This legislation approaches the issue in a pragmatic and strategic way. We support the following aspects of this bill:

1. **Homelessness Grants:** A one-time allocation of \$10 million to support communities actively working to address homelessness. This injection of financial support will empower leaders to bring bold initiatives to life.
2. **Housing Incentive Fund:** A one-time allocation of \$25 million from the Strategic Investment and Improvements Fund to the Housing Incentive Fund. To effectively combat homelessness, there must be an increase in the availability of affordable housing.
3. **Legislative Homelessness Study:** A homelessness study to review data, funding availability, and gather input from homeless program service providers. The results of this study will be used to guide lawmakers as they craft solutions to address this issue statewide.

The strategic allocations made under this bill support long-term investments to address homelessness across the state. Our communities will be more vibrant, prosperous, and economically sound if we invest in solutions to this challenge. I respectfully urge the committee to give S.B. 2014 a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical matter and your commitment to North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Cale Dunwoody
Vice President of Public Policy
Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce