



Letter of Support – SB 2265

Friday, March 14, 2025

Chairman Schauer and members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee,

For the record, 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 Senate Bill 2265.

At the FMWF Chamber, our mission is to protect and promote business, inspire individuals, cultivate communities, and influence action. Founded in 2019, the Fargo National Cemetery has become a cherished part of the local community, serving as a space to honor service members and support their families and loved ones. The cemetery has continued to grow since its establishment, now spanning 35 acres and offering more space for connection, remembrance, and community.

This meaningful addition to our state warrants the creation of a structure that can provide shelter for families, veterans, and Honor Guard members during unsuitable weather, as well as house amenities to ensure a positive experience for those visiting the cemetery. We are grateful for Senator Hoeven, who was pivotal in securing funding for the rural initiative that made this cemetery possible. Due to its rural nature, amenities such as buildings were not initially provided. As such, Senator Hoeven, along with the local community, have come together to find a suitable solution that properly honors those who have given everything for our country.

This creative solution is a statewide effort to fund the building of the structure, with the ownership and long-term upkeep of the facility to be covered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The local community has already worked hard raising the necessary funds and support for this project. Donations from private citizens and the business community have amounted to approximately \$1.4 million. The estimated cost for the project is around \$5 million, so we need the state's help to make this vision a reality.

This facility will ensure that the Fargo National Cemetery provides an honorable and worthy setting of those who have sacrificed so much. It will provide safe and secure space where families can properly honor their loved ones and those who served. Our state is fortunate to have received a National Cemetery and through this investment, we can provide a meaningful experience for the service members and their families. For these reasons, we urge the committee to give this bill a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to North Dakota.

Sincerely,

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