

March 5, 2025

Representative Chairman Longmuir, Vice Chair Representative Fegley and members of the House Political Subdivision Committee,

My name is Ann Fritz and I am a resident of Bismarck. Last month, I watched the testimony and discussion around SB 2097 in the Senate with interest. I now am pleased to see that this bill has moved to the House. **I urge you to recommend a DO PASS for SB 2097. The small towns and communities themselves have testified in favor of this bill.** This bill is not duplicative funding nor is it too broad - it addresses gaps in the current system, providing an endowment fund that will provide grantmaking dollars for the backbone communities in North Dakota.

For me, even though I live in Bismarck, my husband and I like to travel throughout the state, camping, hiking, biking and being tourists in our great state. I have realized that what benefits rural communities' benefits **all** of us. To know that the small communities can continue to improve their roads, get the help they need for clean water and the ability and expertise to ensure garbage and wastes are treated properly, have a cafe, a city park, and other amenities that the community desires - this speaks well for the entire state.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this bill, and all the bills that are before the House Political Subdivision Committee. I really do appreciate it.

With Gratitude,

Ann Fritz

Bismarck, ND