

Chairperson and committee members:

RE: SB2158—In Favor Testimony

My name is Jordan Diseth from Edmore, ND. I am a member of the city council of Edmore, Secretary/Treasurer of Edmore Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance Service, and 5th generation resident of Edmore.

I am writing in favor of Bill 2158. \$500,000 given to the political subdivision is vital to keep the Edmore School running as a community center. This money will be used for heating, electricity, internet for cameras in the building, water, building upkeep, snow removal, and mowing the property. Many of us know that all these expenses add up quite quickly so the amount might seem excessive to others, but they will be used wisely to produce a highly functioning community center that can get up and running without the requirement of fundraising and State/Federal funding grants. With these funds the Community Center can keep running at an affordable rate to anyone that wants to use the building. As a member of the Edmore City Council, it has already been discussed that a board would be formed that would include 2 members of the present school board, 2 members of the city council, the mayor, and possibly include members of the Edmore Community Club (locally ran and operated gaming charity).

There are many possibilities for this immaculate building that can be a benefit to this community and surrounding communities. As of now, there is gym equipment to exercise at a small yearly fee to pay for the key fob required to enter the building in non-operating hours, the gym is used by many in the community to allow their children to run around during these cold winter months, and the library is full of books and available to be used. The other options that have been discussed with many community members: use of the kitchen for community meals, cooking classes, wedding venue, class reunions; community grocery store; golf simulator as Edmore is centrally located between 5 different golf courses but lacking in somewhere to play when the weather does not cooperate or during winter months; and Senior center as the previous building was destroyed due to a substantial water break.

As a member of the Edmore Ambulance service, which covers most of the current school district, it has been extremely difficult to find volunteers that give up their time to keep an EMT available when the ambulance service is required. As an ambulance service that covers a substantial amount of land, it is vital to keep the Edmore community strong and keep this ambulance service running as long as possible as Edmore centrally located between all 4 hospitals in the area. With all this being said, there has been talk about using the Edmore Community as a possible location to allow for hired EMTs to stay and use the building to provide quick service when required.

As a 5th generation resident of Edmore, I believe with the money and Community center that this community can thrive that will make it a hub for surrounding communities to want to visit with their families. Even though this building will no longer be a school, it still has many lessons of education that it can still teach next generation that will never have the opportunity to go to school here.

Thank You, I am available to answer any questions

Jordan Diseth