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COMMITTEES:
Appropriations (Chair)

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Senate Bill 2225 Testimony

Senate Appropriations Government Operations Division

Hon. Terry Wanzek, Chair

Chair Roers and Committee Members,

For the record, I am Senator Brad Bekkedahl from District 1 in Williston. I am here to introduce Governor Armstrong's bill request prioritizing his agenda for the Department of Commerce Housing for Opportunity, Mobility, and Empowerment (HOME) program grants. The bill provides for grants to political subdivisions to build infrastructure to support affordable and market rate housing for the 25-27 biennium period. It is a one-time funding request. The funds will be used by local political subdivisions to address affordable housing by lowering the costs of infrastructure development. The Commerce Department will establish the guidelines for providing the grants, and they are represented here today to follow my testimony in support and to provide details to the committee. You will see the allocation brackets by population categories on the top of page two. You will also see on page two of the bill that the grant funding requires local matching funds. Also included in the bill is a reporting requirement to Legislative Management and the Governor regarding the status of the program and its accomplishments. The bill has an emergency clause to move funding out as quickly as possible to take advantage of this year's construction season if passed with the appropriate vote margins. Chairman Wanzek and Committee, thank you for considering this bill and my testimony. I will now stand for questions and yield to other experts in the room if necessary for the appropriate answers.