

North Dakota United

Testimony Before the Senate Education Committee

HB 1476

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Chair Beard and members of the Committee, for the record, my name is Bob Marthaller, representing the members of North Dakota United, and I am here to provide support and to respectfully request that the Committee give a **“Do Pass”** recommendation for HB 1476.

Chair Beard this measure requiring the collection of building assessments by school districts is not only necessary but critical. Assuring that buildings in school districts are safe, modern, and adequate to meet the learning and health needs of students and district staff is of utmost importance.

It is my understanding that the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction is tasked with data collection, and I have no doubt that the Department will do an excellent job and that some of this data may be readily available. Having accurate and reliable building assessment data will enhance the development of school construction efforts and will provide guidance for future legislative support of district building projects.

However, I also know that the conduct of these in-depth assessments may be time consuming and costly for both the NDDPI and districts,

Chair Beard and members of the Committee, for that reason, North Dakota United requests that the Committee consider restoring all or at least a portion of the funding as provided in the amended version of the House Education Committee version. The appropriation attached to HB 1476 was subsequently removed by House Appropriations.

In any case, North Dakota United respectfully asks for a **“Do Pass”** recommendation on HB 1476.

That concludes my remarks.