



In 2019, [Hiram Drache](#) and [Bruce Gjovig](#) teamed up to collect the stories of 76 entrepreneurs and innovators from our region. In a few months, the sequel to their book will be released with another 46 chapters of innovators. Many of the companies featured tell the story of the entrepreneurs and brands North Dakotans love. From Bobcat to Happy Harrys, Giant Sunflower Seeds to EarthKind. Yet, there is a part of their story that is missing.

Each of these companies had to write their own capital story. For generations, North Dakota has been one of the most capital-starved environments for growth opportunities. The lack of access to organized capital made the challenges even more difficult for these folks and likely prohibited countless others from successfully pursuing their ideas and dreams.

And yet, because of the innovation of the oil and gas industry out west and the wisdom of our elected officials to preserve Legacy Fund dollars to make an impact in North Dakota, we have an opportunity to close the capital gap and create another edition for Hiram and Bruce to write.

I would strongly encourage North Dakotans to learn more about how the principal of the state's \$8B Legacy Fund is being invested and how legislation being introduced this session could make a huge impact. Investing a meaningful portion of the principal of the Legacy Fund for the benefit of North Dakota, combined with other opportunities like the LIFT program, are a great bet on the talented people across our state.

Please consider taking time to learn about House Bills 1425 and 1141 and share your views with your elected legislators on how North Dakota should best invest our state's funds.