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Testimony of Jennifer Greuel Economic Development Association of North Dakota In Support of SB 2230 Feb. 3, 2021

Chair Holmberg and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:

The Economic Development Association of North Dakota represents more than 80 large and small and rural and urban economic development organizations on the front line of growing businesses and communities in North Dakota. The primary purpose of the organization is to promote the creation of new wealth throughout North Dakota to develop more vibrant communities and improve quality of life. It is for these reasons our organization and its members want to express support for SB 2230.

Energy and agriculture have long been the two historical and leading pillars of North Dakota's economy. EDND supports investments that will enhance these important economic sectors and ensure their success in the future, while making strides to diversify the economy. If North Dakota wants to remain a leader in the energy and value-added ag sectors, we will have to invest in research and encourage innovation.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for SB 2230 and for your continued commitment to keeping North Dakota globally competitive and diversifying the state's economy.