

March 10, 2021 Senate Finance and Taxation Sen. Bell, Chairperson HB 1425

Good morning Chairperson Bell and members of the Senate Finance and Taxation Committee. For the record Blake Crosby, Executive Director, North Dakota League of Cities.

We are in support of HB 1425. Investing North Dakota money into North Dakota is the right thing to do. The ROI might be difficult to pencil out but the economic activity and economic diversity this investing in ourselves will create will save taxpayers money in the long run and make for a stronger State. We have a strong entrepreneurial spirit in the State and some very smart people. It is important we encourage them to bring their creative ideas to fruition.

The bill also addresses investing <u>our</u> money in <u>our</u> infrastructure. We have long recognized the need for essential infrastructure projects, especially in the water arena, and this bill will help complete those and other infrastructure projects.

Please give this bill a DO-PASS.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I will try to answer any questions.