

March 4, 2021
Senate Government and Veteran Affairs
Honorable Chairman Shawn Vedaa

HB 1146
SUPPORT

Chairman Vedaa and members of the Government and Veteran Affairs Committee, for the record my name is Becky Ault, Director of the Grand Forks Public Safety Answering Point, and Co-Chair of the ND 911 Association Legislative Committee. I also chair the SIEC Subcommittee working on SORN initiatives. I urge support of HB1146, which is a bill to amend century code relating to rulemaking authority of the statewide interoperability executive committee and eligibility for statewide interoperable radio network access.

Our 911 Association has been working diligently with our partners at the state and local levels on advancing the very important interoperability SORN initiatives. A very big component of the success of this project is to continue to bring responders on the system for true interoperability and vast improvement in our communication capabilities, and ability to talk to each other.

This bill will remedy what I believe are unintended consequences in legislation passed in the last session, which inadvertently left out the eligibility for the \$1500 cost share for many of our rural responders.

There is no fiscal note associated with this bill as the funding was already allocated in the last session.

We urge your support of this bill. Thank you for all your assistance and support in updating our outdated legacy radio systems and infrastructure and vastly improving response communications for our responders in the field.