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January 20, 2021

Tony J. Weiler
Executive Director, State Bar of North Dakota
1661 Capitol Way, Ste. 104LL
P.O. Box 2136
Bismarck, ND 58502-2136

Taylor Olson
Furuseth, Olson & Evert, P.C.
107 Main St.
P.O. Box 417
Williston, ND 58802-0417

Re: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 2233


Dear Mr. Weiler and Ms. Olson:

I am writing in my capacity as a member of the North Dakota Bar to express my strong and enthusiastic personal support for Senate Bill 2233, relating to attorney recruitment in rural counties and municipalities in North Dakota.

I have been a member of the faculty of the UND School of Law since 2010. As our Dean since 2019, it has been a high priority of mine to promote the placement of our students and graduates in rural communities throughout the state, including through our thriving and popular student externship program. I have been particularly gratified that a number of my former students have gone on to establish successful law practices in rural counties and municipalities, helping to meet critical needs for quality legal services. But we still have a long way to go to address the serious lawyer shortages in our rural communities in North Dakota. In my view, Senate Bill 2233 is a tremendously important initiative to help us begin “closing the loop” from student experience to lawyer practice, and will lead to more post-graduation decisions by our UND Law graduates to become the future lawyers and leaders of our North Dakota rural counties and municipalities.

If there are any questions for which I could be helpful, please do not hesitate to contact me. My direct dial is 701-777-0588.

Very truly yours,


Michael S. McGinniss
Dean, UND School of Law