

**Testimony of Mr. Keith Lund**  
**Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation President & CEO**

**Senate Bill 2371**  
**House Agriculture Committee**  
**Bismarck, North Dakota – February 8, 2023**

Chairman Thomas, Vice Chairman Beltz, and members of the House Agriculture Committee. My name is Keith Lund, and I am the President & CEO of the Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation. I am providing testimony today regarding SB 2371.

SB 2371 provides that a county commission or city council or commission may not procure, authorize, or approve a development agreement, building plan, or proposal related to development with an individual or government identified as a foreign advisory under 15 CFR 7.4(a) and prohibits real property ownership of such entities. The Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation previously opposed SB 2371 as originally introduced because of the negative impact it would have had on companies such as Cirrus Aircraft.

Cirrus Aircraft opened its initial manufacturing facility in Grand Forks in 1997 and is a model corporate citizen. The company is the global leader in the production and distribution of single-piston aircraft and has developed the world's first single-engine personal jet, the Vision Jet. Every composite and carbon fiber component used in the production of Cirrus aircrafts is manufactured in Grand Forks by American workers.

Cirrus was acquired by China Aviation Industry General Aircraft Company (CAIGA) in 2011. Prior to the purchase, CAIGA underwent a review by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), a federal interagency committee established specifically to review foreign corporate acquisitions of United States companies to determine the effect on national security. After this extensive review, CFIUS approved the CAIGA purchase of Cirrus, and Cirrus has subsequently invested

significantly in its manufacturing facility, its employees, and the community.

Cirrus currently employs 430 at its Grand Forks plant, having grown its workforce from 240 over the last three years. The company has aggressive growth goals and anticipates increasing its manufacturing footprint and local employment by 150 in the next five years.

SB 2371, as originally proposed, would have impacted the livelihoods of 430 friends, neighbors, and their families. Community jobs would have been lost, \$10 million of North Dakota procurement by Cirrus would have been eliminated and the region's population would have been negatively impacted, causing ripple effects throughout the economy.

Due to amendments that now provide an exclusion to companies that have been in good standing in North Dakota for seven years, have completed a review by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, and have an active National Security Agreement, Cirrus will be able to maintain and grow their manufacturing presence in Grand Forks. Thank you for the committee's conscientious deliberation on similar legislation HB 1503, which was amended and approved by the House with the same exclusion. As a result of these changes, the Grand Forks Region EDC no longer opposes SB 2371 as approved by the Senate.

Thank you, Chairman Thomas, Vice Chairman Beltz, and members of the House Agriculture Committee for your service to North Dakota and for the opportunity to provide testimony today.