

Testimony in Support of HB 1014
House Appropriations – Government Operations Division
Chairman: Representative David Monson
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Chairman Monson and members of the Committee, my name is Dan Madler, I live in ND District 27 and I am the CEO of Beyond Shelter, Inc., a mission driven North Dakota nonprofit developer of affordable housing. I would like to express my support for House Bill 1014 and urge this committee to increase the current budgeted \$25,000,000 appropriation to fund the Housing Incentive Fund (HIF) to \$50,000,000. To support this request, I offer the following:

Let's move the needle and Invest in things that work, and the Housing Incentive Fund works:

- It provides a positive return on investment
- It is a great tool for Community and Economic Development
- It supports an increase in the availability of affordable housing options within North Dakota communities, which is essential to attracting, retaining, and developing a diverse, productive workforce and which allows North Dakota communities to be competitive and **“fire on all cylinders”**
- Investing in Affordable Housing is foundational as it is connected to other outcomes (i.e., health, education, employment, childcare, transportation, wealth creation, public safety – these are all inter-related and without Housing, nothing else works. Housing Matters.)

The data and evidence are clear, the need for HIF is absolute:

- **33 plus-years** to meet the current demand. The 2020-2025 Statewide Housing Needs Assessment indicates approximately 9,000 new housing units are needed to be built by 2025 to meet demand. Utilizing existing resources and funding programs, the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency was able to fund/support 266 affordable housing units for development in 2023. All things being equal, at that rate, it would take 33 plus-years to meet the expected 2025 demand. **The need for HIF is absolute**

In closing, I request your support for HB 1014 and respectfully request that this committee increase the current \$25M budgeted appropriation to \$50M. **Let's move the needle.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.