TESTIMONY OF
MAJOR GENERAL ALAN S. DOHRMANN
NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD
BEFORE THE
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
13 MARCH 2023
SENATE BILL 2025

Good morning Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I am Al Dohrmann, Adjutant General and Director of Emergency Services for the state of North Dakota. I am here today to testify in support of Subdivision 6 of Senate Bill 2025.

Subdivision 6 provides $14,556,524 of loan authority from the Bank of North Dakota (BND). I would like to provide updated estimates for the loans we have outstanding. We are asking for $4,695,890 for projected disaster and fire related cost this biennium, and $14,355,095 of BND loan authority to pay the remaining balance of the Dakota Access Pipeline protest loans with BND. The sum of these two loan repayments is now $19,050,985. I will address the DAPL loan and will bring Mr. Hanson, our Director of Homeland Security, up to provide an update on the disaster costs.

Attachment #1 provides a breakdown of the DAPL cost and the payments made against loans totaling $39,355,095 dating back to the Fall of 2016. As you can see, we have received $10,000,000 of federal funds from a Department of Justice Emergency Law Enforcement Assistance Grant, along with $15,000,000 of donations to pay down the principle, leaving us with $14,355,095 in our deficiency. This amount is comprised of $13,362,262 in principle and an estimated $992,833 in interest through June 30, 2023. In previous bienniums, $1,531,173 in interest has been paid on the outstanding loans, including $703,432 in last biennium. When including projected interest from the current biennium, the total interest accrued is $2,524,007.

Also, within Subdivision 6 is $4,695,890 for the state cost share related to wildfire response and presidentially declared disasters, including the 2021 summer storm (DR4613), the 2022 spring storm (DR4660), and the hazard mitigation grant program made available from the COVID-19 event (DR4509).

With that Mr. Chairman, I will turn it over to Darin to provide an update on the remaining disaster declarations.

Good morning, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee. I am Darin Hanson, Director of Homeland Security at the Department of Emergency Services. I would like to provide an update on the two storm disasters declared this biennium, along with the loan authority for fire response and hazard mitigation dollars linked to COVID-19.

Beginning on Attachment #2 with the wildfire response, we are asking for $971,074 to repay principal and interest on a BND loan draw. The wildfire response costs are primarily related to the 2021 fire season and were made available under an emergency clause within the agency's 2021-2023 appropriation bill (HB 1016) in the amount of $2.5 million. The vast majority of those funds were used for ground and aerial fire suppression performed through both State Active Duty response, as well as response efforts from the

ND Forest Service. The remainder of the appropriation is not expected to be used. Next, we are seeking reimbursement for the state share of the hazard mitigation grant program made available by the COVID-19 event in the amount of $22,153.

Moving to Attachment #3, there are two storm disasters incurred this biennium. These two disasters involved 40 counties throughout the state with an estimated state cost share of $3,702,663 to be paid out this biennium. The first storm was the 2021 Summer Storms which resulted in a $100,209 state share of response and recovery costs. The second storm was the 2022 Spring Storms, causing an estimated $97 million in total damages and resulting in an estimated state share of disbursed response and recovery funds this biennium of $3,602,454.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, we are requesting a total of $4,695,890 for the estimated state share of disbursed costs for disaster response, recovery, and mitigation programs. The items identified within Subdivision 6 are estimates and any excess funding will not be expended.

We ask for your support of SB 2025 and will stand by for any questions you may have.