

SB 2240 introduction

Senator Randy Burckhard, District 5, Minot

Bill to provide an appropriation to the department of commerce for the base retention grant program.

Chairman Vigesaa and members of the House Appropriations committee:

SB2240 is about the military support program which is an appropriation to the Department of Commerce for the communities of Minot, Grand Forks and Fargo. The funds appropriated by the legislature are for maintaining the military missions and attracting new military missions at Minot AFB, Grand Forks AFB, and to support the ND National Guard in Fargo.

The proposed funds of \$1,900,000 must be used to support each community at the following levels for the 2023-2025 biennium: Minot \$900,000; Grand Forks \$500,000; and Fargo \$500,000. The appropriation would restore community military funding with enhanced funding to prepare North Dakota for the Sentinel modernization project near Minot. We are preparing for impact.

Mr Chairman, the annual economic impact of these 3 bases in North Dakota is \$1.16B. They employ over 14,000 people and create about 3,843 indirect jobs in ND. Individually, the annual economic impact of Minot AFB is \$607M, Grand Forks, \$270M and ND National Guard \$315M.

Nuclear deterrence. Nuclear Triad: Submarines, Bombers, and Missiles. Minot AFB is the only base with two nuclear missions.

North Dakota's impact: We **Provide**, via agricultural commodities. We **Power**, via the energy we produce and We **Protect** via our military mite.

The impact of this DOD modernization project: \$3.2B, 2500-3000 workers.

The importance of a state of the art nuclear deterrent: its the best deterrent to a nuclear war. the analogy to a parachute, if you don't have one when you need one, you'll never need one again. We often compare it to a pizza delivery, "from the warhead to the forehead in 30 minutes or less or the next ones free".

What our adversaries are doing? China, Russia, Iraq, North Korea

This base retention grant program funding will support: **Advocacy & awareness** of the Sentinel modernization project.

The question asked is Why Now Mr Chairman?

The communities of Minot, Grand Forks and Fargo have raised funds privately and have support for the military efforts in each community, but with two consecutive legislative sessions without funding the additional challenges facing each community there is a need to restore military funding, with enhanced funding, to prepare ND for the Sentinel modernization project.

Mr Chairman and members of the House Appropriations committee, there was no one opposed to this

bill and it received a 16-0 "Do Pass" in the Senate Appropriations committee. I would ask for your favorable consideration and would stand for any questions you might have.

This request from the general fund in the state treasury would appropriate \$1,900,000 to the department of commerce for the purpose of providing base retention grant funding to communities with an air force base or air national guard facilities (Minot AFB, Grand Forks AFB and the North Dakota National Guard). Of the funding appropriated, \$900,000 is to be distributed to eligible organizations in Minot and \$1,000,000 is to be distributed equally to eligible organizations in Grand Forks and Fargo. These three bases have a \$1.2B annual impact in the state of North Dakota. (These communities raise funds privately and the City of Minot has provided funding to support their work, but the last two legislative sessions did not provide any funding, and additional efforts are needed to prepare the State of N.D for the largest Department of Defense modernization project, called the GBSD missile system, Sentinel)