



International Union of Painters & Allied Trades District Council 82

AFL-CIO

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Senate Bill No. 2240

House Appropriations Committee, Honorable Don Vigesaa, Chair

IN SUPPORT

Jeff Stark, Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

International Union of Painters & Allied Trades District Council 82

April 4, 2023

Chair Vigesaa and House Appropriations Committee members –

I am Jeff Stark, Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer for the International Union of Painters & Allied Trades District Council 82. On behalf of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT), I am offering our support for Senate Bill 2240, to help maintain – and increase – military strength in North Dakota.

The International Union of Painters & Allied Trades District Council 82 provides a voice for almost 3,000 workers in the finishing trades across Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and western Wisconsin. Our members are trained in a variety of industry needs, including industrial and commercial painting, drywall finishing, glazing, glass work, sign installation, convention workers, silk screen paint making and embroidery.

We are very proud of the many members of the building trades who are veterans, or who are currently serving in the National Guard and Reserves. However, our support for SB 2240 is not a union or non-union matter; it is about protecting the Armed Forces assets currently located in North Dakota. The Air Forces Bases in Minot and Grand Forks, and the Air National Guard base in Fargo play a major role in protecting our citizens from hostile foreign actors. Even more importantly, the facilities provide good-paying jobs for thousands of full and part-time members of the military. Add to these positions the additional thousands of workers employed in the communities directly due to the presences of the bases, and you quickly realize the fiscal impact in the hundreds of millions of dollars that are gained by the state.

SB 2240 asks for a one-time appropriation of \$1.9 million to help retain the three in-state facilities, along with getting ready for an expanded missile mission in Minot later in the decade. Of the \$1.9 million amount, \$900,000 is to be distributed to Minot, and \$500,000 each to Grand Forks and Fargo. While this is a significant amount of funds from the general fund, the return on investment by keeping – and expanding – our bases will pay dividends in many multiples over the next few years.

Our members are looking for a commitment to the citizens who place their lives on the line to defend our freedoms. Your support of SB 2240 provides that commitment. By using the one-time funding to support our military installations, you are creating a legacy of economic growth for generations to come, for our members and all North Dakotans.

Chair Vigesaa and members of the House Appropriations Committee, we applaud your hard work this session, and respectfully ask for your support of SB 2240, so it can pass the full House of Representatives and go as quickly as possible to Governor Burgum so he can sign it into law.

Thank you for your consideration.