



January 13, 2023

North Dakota House Finance and Taxation Committee  
State Capitol  
600 East Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Chair Headland and Committee Members,

Prior to 1999 and the establishment of Renaissance Zones in North Dakota, Downtown Fargo was no different than downtown districts across the nation that suffered from a lack of investment. Our city core was neglected as population growth and investment turned toward the city edges. Renaissance Zone legislation was a catalyst for change in our community. A walk today through Fargo's downtown shows the power this tool can have for reinvigorating a city center.

As an economic development professional, I ask you to consider supporting HB 1266, to allow communities in North Dakota with expired zones to go through a renewal process to have the opportunity to bring back this tool.

Communities like Bismarck, Watford City, Carrington, and the State of North Dakota as a whole could benefit from this change to state law.

Sincerely,

Cindy Graffeo  
Executive Director