

**Testimony of Cole Higlin  
North Dakota Recreation & Park Association  
To House Finance and Taxation Committee  
In Opposition of SB 2330  
Tuesday, March 14, 2023**

Chairman Headland and Members of the Committee, my name is Cole Higlin, and I am the public policy chair of the North Dakota Recreation & Park Association (NDRPA). NDRPA represents more than 900 members across the state and works to advance parks, recreation and conservation for an enhanced quality of life in North Dakota. NDRPA is opposed to SB 2330.

As currently drafted, the bill would remove the ability to fund the Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund using the Legacy Fund. The Infrastructure Revolving Loan Fund provides low-interest, long-term loans to political subdivisions for much needed projects such as sewerlines and waterlines, storm water infrastructure, including curb and gutter, to name a few. HB 1292, which has passed this body and is under consideration by the Senate, would expand the list of eligible projects to infrastructure for recreation and community facilities.

Allowing political subdivisions to apply for low interest loans for infrastructure assists communities both large and small in completing projects that affect the quality of life of your constituents and visitors. Although SB 2330 would not remove funding for infrastructure projects directly, it does remove access to much-needed capital to keep these loan programs viable, particularly given the current lending environment. Should SB 2330 pass as currently written, another funding source would be needed to keep the Infrastructure Revolving Loan Program going.

I believe investment in infrastructure that improves the quality of life for every day North Dakotans is the type of investment the Legacy Fund should support. Without any direct loss to the Fund, the state is able to provide funding support to political subdivisions for infrastructure projects in local communities, continuing to support a high quality of life in North Dakota.

NDRPA urges a Do Not Pass recommendation on SB 2330. Thank you.