

1 **TESTIMONY OF DAVID HOGUE IN SUPPORT OF SB 2367**

2 **HOUSE FINANCE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE**

3 **MARCH 14, 2023**

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5 Good morning Chairman Headland and members of the House Finance and  
6 Taxation Committee. My name is David Hogue. I am a North Dakota state senator  
7 representing District 38, which includes northwest Minot and the city of Burlington. I  
8 appear before your committee to seek support for Senate Bill 2367.

9 SB 2367 is a bill that seeks to maintain three of our major funds on par with the  
10 rate of inflation our state has experienced in the last several biennia. Senate Bill 2367  
11 increases the amount that goes into the general fund, our tax relief fund for county  
12 social services, and the strategic investment and improvements fund. As you will note  
13 from lines 10, 11, 15, and 20, the amount that goes into those funds is static.

14 SB 2367 raises the amount that goes into the general fund from \$ 400 million to \$  
15 460 million, a 15% increase from the previous biennium. SB 2367 raises the amount  
16 that goes into the tax relief fund for county social services from \$ 200 million to \$ 250  
17 million. This increase from \$ 200 million to \$ 250 million is the actual amount necessary  
18 to fund that tax relief for our counties.

19 SB 2367 increases the amount going to the SIIF fund from \$ 400 million to \$ 460  
20 million, another increase of 15%.

21 As you can see from the attached March 9, 2023 budget summary, the General  
22 Fund is \$ 1,193 million in the red and that figure includes an assumption that the \$ 60

1 million that SB 2367 proposes to transfer to the General Fund takes place. Without SB  
2 2367, the General Fund is over \$ 1.2 billion in the red.

3 I realize several political subdivisions are not supportive of this measure but I tell  
4 them what I would like to tell you: We are state representatives and state senators and  
5 we have a constitutional duty to balance a state budget. Despite having that solemn  
6 constitutional duty, our projections show that the so-called "Prairie Dog" buckets will fill.

7 Chairman Headland and members of the House Finance and Taxation  
8 Committee, I urge your support of SB 2367 and would be happy to try to answer your  
9 questions.

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