

March 28, 2023

To: Chair Louser and members of Industry, Business and Labor committee

From: Roxy Volk, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity Northern Lights

Re: Support of SB No. 2207, Contractor Licensing Exceptions

Chair Louser and members of Industry, Business and Labor committee, thank you for allowing us to speak this morning regarding Senate Bill No. 2207, I will be brief. My name is Roxy Volk and I am the Executive Director of Minot's Habitat for Humanity Northern Lights established in 1997.

As you know, non-profits are required to hire a General Contractor or must have a contractor license to build affordable houses in our state. Being a small Habitat affiliate with a small budget, it's difficult to incur this added expense. Even if we apply for a ND contractor license, the annual renewal expense is unaffordable when we only build or rehabilitate a house every few years as budget allows.

We hope you will support this bipartisan bill with the common goal of helping solve the problem of providing simple, decent and affordable housing for low-income families in North Dakota. Please know the passage of this bill doesn't change our requirements to comply with all building codes, we still enjoy numerous visits from multiple local building inspectors.

Thank you again for your time, we would appreciate your support of this bill.

We also have two other colleagues joining us virtually this morning to provide testimony. Ms. Marisa Saucedo, Executive Director of Red River Valley Habitat for Humanity and Ms. Cristen Incitti, CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota, which is our affiliate support organization.