

HB 1071 Testimony  
Political Subdivisions Committee  
January 5, 2023  
Mary H. Senger, Director  
Burleigh County Emergency Management

Chairman Dockter and members of the Political Subdivisions Committee, my name is Mary Senger, Emergency Management Director for Burleigh County, and I am in support of HB 1071.

NDCC 37.17.1-07 requires each county to “maintain an emergency management organization that serves the entire county or must be a member of a regional emergency management organization that serves more than one county.” Throughout the years, the State’s smaller-populated counties have struggled to fill vacant Emergency Manager positions.

In 2011, Burleigh County signed a Joint Powers Agreement with Emmons County to provide emergency management services which continues to be renewed yearly. This was the first agreement in North Dakota between two counties for emergency management services and paved the way for other counties to duplicate.

Not every Emergency Manager is willing and/or able to take on another county for emergency management. Through the years, I have been approached to take on additional counties; however, as a one-person department, I have declined.

Counties need another option for emergency management services, and I welcome this opportunity.