

March 3, 2023

Senator Longmuir, Chair
House Political Subdivisions
ND Capitol Building
Bismarck, ND 50504

Senator Longmuir and the Senate Political Subdivisions Committee,

Thank you for taking a few minutes to read this letter of support for Senate Bill 2306. I appreciate your time and consideration in listening to my input on this matter.

I am the executive director for the Traill County Economic Development Commission. Our organization is also the Job Development Authority (JDA) in Traill County. We serve many roles in our county, but most of these revolve around assisting our businesses in growing and helping our communities thrive.

Our funding comes from the county; we are funded by up to four mills annually through the consideration of our citizens and at the discretion of the county commission – the point being that our funding comes at the local level. There is a system of checks and balances within our bylaws that ensures the local commissioners have authority to approve the representatives who serve on our board. These board members, in turn, have the responsibility to ensure the work we do for our county is in the best interests of our citizens and the county as a whole.

It is my opinion that the language of SB 2306 would ensure that volunteer board members like ours, who often are hard to find, are able to serve on multiple boards within a region's economic development arena. This in turn, makes it much easier to find people with the skills, passion and time to do this work.

I know the difficulty in finding volunteer board members in Traill County. Having the option of being able to maximize these board members and the work they do, as spelled out in SB 2306, will only help organizations like ours work more effectively and efficiently.

If you have questions or concerns you can contact me via email (director@traillcountyedc.com), on my office phone at (701) 636-4746 or even on my cell at (701) 430-1644.

Sincerely,



Jim Murphy
Executive Director, Traill County Economic Development Commission

