

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2183
Appropriations – Education and Environment Division
January 25, 2023

Todd Feland, City Administrator
City of Grand Forks, ND

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Todd Feland and I'm the City Administrator for the City of Grand Forks. I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and express my support to this important funding legislation.

It is no secret that winters in the northern Red River Valley and the State of North Dakota can be tough. We don't panic when we get the amount of snow that could significantly impact other parts of the country. However, some winters are tougher and worse than others such as the winter of 2022-23.

Just a couple of examples from the current winter season. The five winters prior to this one, the City of Grand Forks averaged a little over 6300 regular, overtime, and equipment hours for our winter operations and so far this year we are at nearly 10,000 hours. The five winters prior to this one, the City of Grand Forks averaged hauling just under 800 truck loads of snow out of the City and so far this winter we have hauled a little over 3,600 truckloads.

Grand Forks, like every other city in North Dakota, has taken a large hit to our winter operations budget this year and any support from the state would be very appreciated.

If we could ask for one amendment to this bill. The bill currently states that a political subdivision would need to hit 200% of its 5-year average to receive state funding support. Even with the numbers we have provided, we are only at about 160% of our five-year average. It is significant but would not qualify for assistance with this program. We would ask that the threshold for assistance be dropped to 150% of a five year average or some other percentage that is a reasonable and attainable benchmark.

With this amendment, we ask for a DO PASS on SB 2183

Thank you.