



New Rockford Area Betterment Corporation

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March 8, 2023

Testimony for Senate Appropriations Government Operations Division

Friday March 10, 2023, 8:00 am

IN SUPPORT

My name is Amanda Hegland and I work as the Executive Director for the New Rockford Area Betterment Corporation.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I encourage you to support returning the funding to the Governor's amount for grants and planning; slum and blight removal; and staff. On behalf of the New Rockford Area Betterment Corporation, I want to extend our support for:

- \$800,000 for the grant line item. This funding will be used for vibrancy, planning and additional grants to implement community planning.
- \$15M for slum and blight removal for commercial and housing.
- Return the additional one full time employee the governor had budgeted for the Main Street Program.

This bill would greatly benefit our rural communities by providing grant funding to many great projects and planning in our rural communities. It also has the opportunity to remove the slum and blight housing stock and replace it with workforce housing that is much needed in our communities. The Main Street program and staff has provided New Rockford with exceptional support to our rural community. They have helped guide us and have offered much needed support to help progress our city. We are in support of returning the additional full-time employee.

New Rockford has had the privilege of taking part in the many programs and grants that the Department of Commerce has used to give our community the opportunity to grow and thrive. We encourage you to continue to fund programs that offer opportunities for rural communities like New Rockford to continue to advance and flourish. Please help us continue to grow and thrive by supporting and funding the Department of Commerce.

I respectfully request that you support the valuable work the Department of Commerce is doing to support the communities of North Dakota.

Thank you so much for all you do, and for your support of economic development throughout the state of North Dakota!

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Hegland

Executive Director, New Rockford Area Betterment Corporation

This corporation is an equal opportunity provider.