



Senate Appropriations Committee – HB 1018

Senator Brad Bekkedahl, Chair

March 2, 2023

Chairman Bekkedahl, Members of the Committee:

My name is Brian Ritter and I am the President & CEO of the Bismarck Mandan Chamber EDC. Please accept the following testimony on behalf of our organization's more than 1,230 business members in support of HB 1018

As Bismarck-Mandan's leader for both business advocacy and economic development, the Chamber EDC is actively involved in many of the same areas, activities, etc. as the North Dakota Department of Commerce. For example:

- HB 1018 contains \$8 million for workforce talent attraction initiatives similar to what the Chamber EDC has implemented on a local level via our online, talent attraction campaigns.

- HB 1018 contains more than \$1 million for Operation Intern which would help address workforce shortages across the State and is mentioned specifically within our organization's 2023 Legislative Agenda.

These items are in addition to the Department's critical and ongoing work in business attraction, business retention expansion and more. As such, I would respectfully ask that the Committee give a DO PASS recommendation to HB 1018.