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North Central Planning Council
Sandra Shively
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**RE: SUPPORT \$8 MILLION FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CAPACITY
AMENDMENT TO ND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE APPROPRIATIONS BILL 1018**

Dear Legislators:

Please accept this letter of support for state appropriations to support Regional Councils statewide. The Regional Councils have been partners in local and regional economic and community development for the past fifty years and are led by local elected officials and key partners.

The Regional Council's provide expertise and leadership in economic and community development. Existing Regional Council budgets support only a fraction of the necessary staff to address regional needs. These budgets come from numerous sources (including every county in the state), rely heavily on short-term grants, and do not provide long-term funding to address long-term needs. A long-term funding mechanism would provide expanded capacity to address regional issues and opportunities that will in turn elevate the entire state.

Please support a long-term funding mechanism for Regional Councils.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sandra Shively".

Sandra Shively
Executive Director