



FMWF Chamber Letter of Support – Competitive Tax Structure

March 24th, 2023

Chairman Bekkedahl and Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:

For the record, my name is Cale Dunwoody, and I am the Director of Public Policy for the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo (FMWF) Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber's mission is to be a catalyst for economic growth and prosperity for businesses, members, and the greater community. On behalf of our over 1,900 members, I respectfully offer testimony in support of increasing North Dakota's tax competitiveness through income and property tax relief.

As you know, workforce is a major challenge facing every employer across the nation and North Dakota businesses are not exempt from these challenges. Our local businesses have seen firsthand the challenges of attracting and retaining talented individuals in the current employment and economic market. Many of the states across this nation are evaluating their budgets, regulations, and taxes to create a more competitive environment in hopes to attract and retain workers. In order to effectively compete on a national and global scale for workforce, the state of North Dakota must continue to evaluate its tax structure.

We believe it is important to underscore the importance of a robust tax climate that promotes economic growth and prosperity. While we recognize the dichotomy amongst the state as it relates to income and property tax relief, we support the legislature's willingness to compromise and bring a multi-prong tax relief solution to hundreds of thousands of North Dakotans. As a community that borders a high-tax and high-regulation state like Minnesota, we see the real-world impacts of a competitive tax and regulatory structure.

In conclusion, while every state looks to compete for workforce, our state must continue to find creative solutions to keep North Dakota competitive and enhance our ability to attract and retain highly skilled personnel. The current income and property tax proposals do exactly that by expanding opportunities and incentivizing individuals to remain or relocate to North Dakota.

On behalf of our members, I would like to thank committee members for their time and would respectfully urge the legislature to continue supporting a positive tax climate for both property and income tax.

Respectfully,

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