

**Testimony of Mr. Keith Lund**  
**Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation President & CEO**

**Senate Bill 2240**  
**Senate Appropriations Committee**  
**Bismarck, North Dakota – January 23, 2023**

Chairman Bekkedahl, Vice Chair Krebsbach and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, my name is Keith Lund, and I am President & CEO of the Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation (EDC). I am providing written testimony in support of SB 2240.

The Grand Forks Region EDC is a proud member of the Base Retention and Investment Committee (BRIC) in Grand Forks, whose mission is to promote the retention and expansion of missions at the Grand Forks Air Force Base (GFAFB) and Grand Sky. According to a recent report published by the North Dakota National Guard, the missions at the military installations at Grand Forks, Minot and Fargo contribute over \$1 billion to North Dakota's economy. However, these missions and this impact are not guaranteed. It takes diligent education, advocacy and intentional partnership to maintain and increase federal investment in these installations.

Through these efforts, leaders in Grand Forks have worked to position GFAFB as the "Base of the Future", with Air Force and Space Development Agency missions. In addition to the exciting missions on base, the Test Resource Management Center recently announced a significant mission to be housed at Grand Sky.

While we are pleased with the current missions at GFAFB and Grand Sky, we also recognized that priorities can change quickly in the Department of Defense (DOD). Grand Forks

finds it essential to increase awareness of our strategic location and capabilities within the Pentagon, Air Combat Command and other DOD partner agencies to insure we maintain and grow these missions.

The communities of Grand Forks, Minot and Fargo have raised both private and public funds and continue to support military efforts in each community. We are fortunate to have received support from the North Dakota Legislature in previous biennia to leverage these funds. However, after two sessions without this important funding and a rapidly increasing evolution of investment priorities within the DOD, there is a growing need to restore community military funding to enhance our collective efforts to advocate for the modernization of our military installations and to further ensure the current economic contribution to North Dakota continues.

Thank you, Chairman Bekkedahl, Vice Chair Krebsbach, and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee for your service to the State of North Dakota and for the opportunity to provide this written testimony.