

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2240
Appropriations Committee
January 23, 2023

Brandon Bochenski, Mayor
Grand Forks, ND

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify on this important matter. Over the past couple of years I have had the honor of serving as an honorary wing commander under the leadership of Colonel Timothy Curry of the 319th Reconnaissance Wing. I am testifying in SUPPORT of SB 2240 which would provide base retention and enhancement funding to Minot, Fargo, and Grand Forks.

As long as the Grand Forks Air Force Base has been in existence, it has been a vital part of our community, State of North Dakota, and United States of America. We have fought hard add further strategic community value to the Grand Forks Air Force Base and have found success attracting multiple ancillary and support entities in both the public and private sectors.

The state funds within this bill will help augment local efforts and funding in the following ways in Grand Forks and the Grand Forks Air Force Base:

- **Advocacy and Awareness** of the GFAFB, Grand Sky, and Grand Forks community collaborative strengths through strategic meetings with US Air Force leadership to include at the Pentagon and Air Combat Command.
- **Quality of Life** planning and investments for service members and their families to include support of K-12 education, student services, higher education programming and research, medical care and behavioral/mental health, and educational and recreational opportunities.
- **Strategic Advising** to raise the national awareness and align the community with current and future GFAFB strategic initiatives to include Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance (ISR) mission sets, Space Development Agency (SDA), and Test Resource Management Center (TRMC).

Thank you for your time as I request a Do Pass on SB 2240.

Respectfully,
Brandon Bochenski
Mayor of Grand Forks