



January 23, 2023
Senator Bekkedahl and members of Senate Appropriations
In Favor Testimony for SENATE BILL NO. 2240

Task Force 21-Minot (TF-21) is an activity of the Minot Area Chamber EDC that educates the local community, North Dakota officials, members of Congress and the public on national security issues, particularly ones that affect Minot Air Force Base, the U.S. Air Force, and our nuclear deterrent.

TF21 members have a sincere interest in working to fulfill the mission of the task force with a commitment to serve. Outside of the position held by the Minot Area Chamber EDC President | CEO, all TF21 members are key community leaders who volunteer and give their time for this critical effort that supports nuclear deterrence and missions at Minot Air Force Base. A focus has been on building a consensus to devote sufficient resources to sustaining and modernizing all three legs of the nuclear triad (land, sea and air).

Minot Air Force Base provides an annual economic impact of \$607 million (FY21). TF21 works consistently and diligently to ensure Minot does not end up on a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) list, Minot Air Force Base continues the current missions, and the Department of Defense completes planned modernization projects.

Minot has raised funds privately and the City of Minot has provided funding to support the work of Task Force 21 but with two sessions without funding and additional efforts needed to prepare the State of North Dakota for the largest Department of Defense modernization project with Sentinel there is a gap and state support is needed. Department of Commerce – Base Retention Grant Program funds would be used for:

Advocacy and Awareness

- Strategic meetings with Washington DC leadership and U.S. Air Force Global Strike Command
- Host Nuclear Triad Annual Symposium in Washington DC to educate industry, elected officials and military on nuclear deterrence and the importance of all three legs of the nuclear triad
- Bring to North Dakota a Nuclear Triad Symposium with the objectives outlined above
- Bomber Constituency Group support of the modernization and nuclear mission of the B52 and the U.S. Air Force's Long-Range Standoff Weapon (LRSO) program
- Strategic partnerships with key military associations and organizations
- Strategic guidance to raise national awareness and align the community and MAFB with current and future Air Force initiatives

Sentinel Preparation

- Workforce hub research and planning
- Build business resource hub for North Dakota
- Coalition development and strategic partnerships with F.E. Warren AFB, Cheyenne WY and Malmstrom AFB, Great Falls MT to prepare our state for the largest Department of Defense modernization project
- Stand up the Sentinel Constituency Group to support the Air Force's program to modernize the ICBM

We ask for your support of Senate Bill No. 2240.

Sincerely,

Mark J. Jantzer
Task Force 21 Chair

Task Force 21 Members

Mark J. Jantzer

TF21 chair

Mayor Tom Ross

City of Minot

Brekka Kramer

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