



**Testimony of Dana Hager**  
**Economic Development Association of North Dakota**  
**In Support of HB 1437**  
**March 17, 2023**

Chairman Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs Committee:

My name is Dana Hager, and I am the executive director of the Economic Development Association of North Dakota (EDND). EDND represents more than 80 state economic development organizations and businesses on the front line of economic development efforts throughout North Dakota. The organization's primary purpose is to promote the creation of new wealth throughout North Dakota, develop more vibrant communities and improve quality of life. I want to express our support for HB 1437.

EDND places value in expanding economic diversification to strengthen and support our communities. North Dakota's long-term future depends on healthy and vibrant communities full of opportunity, innovation, and effective tools to attract growth.

HB 1437 is an economic development tool to conduct rural site analysis opportunities throughout the state. This valuable research-based information will help economic developers and community leaders make well-informed decisions to support local development and planning initiatives for communities of all sizes. The rural development tool outlined in this bill will assist many communities in taking a critical inventory of their resources to attract businesses and growth. Our members see this bill as an opportunity to position themselves positively for future development and growth. Many would not have the means to gather this specific information on their own.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for HB 1437 and for your continued commitment to North Dakota communities.