

Members of the committee. My name is Todd Beard, Senator from Williston District 23. I am here to speak on SB 2234.

This is a funding bill I am putting forward on behalf of the ND National Guard. The National Guard has a long history and presence in the Williston area. They have supported missions throughout our state's history, around the world as well as within our state. From Iraq to the flooding in Minot they have been there providing services to support and protect. The 818th engineering unit has been replaced by the 188 Air Defense Artillery Unit. New team, new mission. Currently the ND National Guard leases a space with the City of Williston for the purpose of equipment storage. The time has come for a new armory to be built in the Williston area. This will be a training and support facility for 63 soldiers with 3 full time staff within the city of Williston. The property has been secured, now they need funding to get the ball rolling for the planning and preparation for the construction phase.

The bill before you would provide the necessary funding to get that ball rolling. The \$2,600,000 ask in this bill would do just that.

I ask that we support our ND National Guard with a Do Pass vote and will try to answer any questions you may have.

Thank You

Senator Todd Beard