

Testimony in Support of House Bill 1070
March 6, 2023
Senate Finance and Taxation Committee
Bill Wocken on behalf of the North Dakota League of Cities

Good Morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Finance and Taxation Committee. For the record, my name is Bill Wocken, appearing on behalf of the North Dakota League of Cities in support of House Bill 1070.

This bill seeks to establish a hazard mitigation revolving loan fund and make it available to local jurisdictions throughout the state. This would be accomplished by receiving a \$9,000,000 federal grant issued under the Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation Act and matching it with \$1,000,000 state funding. The hazard mitigation revolving loan fund would then loan money to local governments.

The loan program would be set up to increase community resiliency, mitigate the effects of disasters and reduce vulnerability to future damages. It could be used to match the local share of FEMA hazard mitigation grants. Any reduction we can effect in loss of life or property damage from a disaster is effort well worth undertaking.

Mr. Chairman and committee members, the best responses to disasters are avoidance and mitigation. Both require pro-active efforts to eliminate as much harm as possible from an adverse event. This program provides loans to local governments, through the state, to be pro-active. The North Dakota League of Cities supports this program and this bill and respectfully requests a Do Pass recommendation from the committee. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have of me.