



THE CHAMBER
FARGO MOORHEAD WEST FARGO

FMWF Chamber Opposition – HB 1249 & HB 1489

March 27th, 2023

Chair Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

For the record, my name is Shannon Full and I have the pleasure of serving as the President/ CEO of the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo (FMWF) Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber's mission is to be a catalyst for economic growth and prosperity for businesses, members, and the greater community. On behalf of our over 1,900 members, I respectfully offer testimony in opposition to House Bill 1249 and House Bill 1489.

These pieces of legislation are potentially detrimental to our state, possessing a plethora of adverse effects, including a loss of economic stimulation in the hospitality and tourism industry, and impeding our state's ability to create a robust business friendly climate. The state of North Dakota is competing on a global scale for tourism, economic development, and workforce attraction. If enacted, policies such as these not only impact our state's brand but also hinders our ability to attract and retain companies and individuals.

The more than 100 sporting events that take place throughout our region fill hotels, restaurants, and stores, generating millions of dollars in economic impact. This bill would put these events in jeopardy as large sporting events may cease to host their tournaments in North Dakota, due to the constraints of this legislation or their overall opposition to discriminatory policies such as this. Additionally, we may lose current or future employers, which also generate millions of dollars in economic impact. We recognize the various philosophical and ideological arguments that surround this topic, but the FMWF Chamber stands in opposition due to the negative economic impacts these bills may have on our state and region.

On behalf of our members, I would like to thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Shannon Full
President/CEO
FMWF Chamber of Commerce
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