

Good morning, Chairwoman Roers and members of the State and Local Government Committee. I am Julie Wagendorf and I serve as the Director of Food and Lodging for the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services. I am here to provide testimony in support of SB 2082 which updates three definitions and general housekeeping of the North Dakota Century Code 23-09.

SB 2082 provides changes to three definitions in Section 23-09-01. Mobile and temporary food establishment is included in the definition of food establishment for housekeeping and for consistency with Section 23-09-16. Changes to the existing term lodging establishment exclude small lodging establishments with five or fewer sleeping rooms and 10 or fewer guests from state licensure and inspection. Also, a definition was included for a transient guest since this was not previously defined and clarifies that long-term rental properties do not require licensure under this law.

Proposed changes primarily impact small, residential-style homes held out for lease or rent to transient guests. Typically these settings are privately-owned vacation rentals in residential neighborhoods. Local zoning, building, and fire codes apply in these settings and are in place to better serve communities' needs.

SB 2082, if enacted, would decrease the burden of regulation through licensure and inspections and result in fewer state resources needed for conducting inspections.

Amendments to Sections 23-09-03, 05, and 07 offer clear and standard language for commercial building codes and fire codes and were added for consistency.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I would be happy to respond to any questions you may have.