

**Testimony of Landis Larson, ND AFL-CIO President
In Support of HB 1143
January 16, 2025**

Chairperson:

My name is Landis Larson, President of the North Dakota AFL-CIO. The North Dakota AFL-CIO is the federation of labor unions in North Dakota, representing the interests of all working people in our state.

I am testifying on behalf of the North Dakota AFL-CIO in support of House Bill 1143.

During hard economic times, the workers are always the first to really feel it: first in their wallets, then in their stomachs. That's why our unions, labor councils and state federations have a history of donating our time, energy and resources, humble as they may be, to hunger relief organizations like the Great Plains Food Bank and our local community food shelves.

In the over 100 year history of representing working families in the state of North Dakota, our workers have seen some ups and some downs, sometimes due market changes, sometimes due to outsourcing, plant closures, layoffs, and lockouts; but working families were able to make it through because of hunger relief programs like those provided by the Great Plains Food Bank.

We know that right now, many workers in our economy are being left behind and are struggling to afford to put food on the table. Without the vital service provided by Great Plains Food Bank and their community partners, the suffering that working families would experience due to hunger would be even greater.

We also know that in some of our rural manufacturing communities, uncertain economic times are on the horizon: corporate outsourcing resulting in mass layoffs is a very likely reality for many workers. The Great Plains Food Bank network may be an actual lifeline for these families until they can get back on their feet.

We are proud to stand with the Great Plains Food Bank and their partners in their mission to END HUNGER TOGETHER and encourage the state of North Dakota to invest in expanding the Great Plains Food Bank's capacity to meet the increasing needs of working families in our state.

Thank you to the bill sponsors for bringing the legislature into such an important discussion facing our working families in North Dakota.

The North Dakota AFL-CIO fully supports House Bill 1143.