

2025 HB 1128
House Education Committee
Representative Pat Heinert, Chairman
January 14, 2025

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee, I am Leslie Wietstock, Vice President for Finance and Administration at Dickinson State University (DSU). I am here to testify in support of House Bill 1128. I ask that you give this bill a **Do Pass** recommendation.

House Bill 1128 could not have been presented at a better time than now for DSU. A number of years ago, renovation was started on Woods Hall, a residence hall on the campus of DSU. Unfortunately, of the 3 floors plus the lower level, only the second floor and a portion of the first floor was completed. During this project, demolition was done to all the floors of the building, so when the project stopped, the 3rd floor, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the 1st floor and the lower level was left unusable.

A project has been developed to complete the renovation at an estimated cost of \$7.5 million. Given the status of the project, we would ask the Legislature to consider adding an emergency clause to it, so that DSU could apply for loan funding prior to July 1.

The option for a university to make application to the Bank of North Dakota for a loan to fund the project would lower the costs of issuance and the number of regulatory requirements that come with revenue bonds.

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today in support of HB1128 and would be more than happy to stand for any questions.