



LINCOLN STATE BANK

**Testimony of Robert Wurl in support of HB 1524
To the House Finance and Taxation Committee
February 4, 2025**

Rep. Craig Headland and members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee.

My name is Robert Wurl. I am President of Lincoln State Bank, Hankinson and serve on the Hankinson Community Development Corporation, Southern Valley Economic Development Authority and Lake Agassiz Regional Development Corporation. I support HB 1524 as it provides sustained funding for regional councils, which provide resources to support rural communities such as ours.

As the local community bank, people in our community look to us to provide not only financial resources, but information, expertise, technical support and assistance with almost every activity within the community. We look to our Regional Council as a resource to help us provide information, support and to find solutions for community planning, housing needs, childcare need, business and industry attraction and expansion.

The Regional Council is a resource we rely on heavily in Hankinson. Given the size of our community, activity is driven by boards made up of volunteers, we do not have the resources to employ full-time staff.

Lake Agassiz Regional Council has assisted our local development corporation and City in many ways through the 40 years I have been engaged in banking and economic development. Using their technical expertise, they lead the City through the process of establishing and renewing our Renaissance Zone, facilitated long-range community planning and visioning, assisted with applications for various grant and other financing leading to new industry (Guardian Energy Hankinson) and expansion of existing businesses. They are well-versed in a variety of funding resources.

I urge you to support this critical funding bill for Regional Councils statewide.

Robert P. Wurl bwurl@lsbbank.com
President & CEO

470 4TH ST. NW
PO BOX 159
WYNDMERE, ND 58081
701-439-2243

302 SOUTH MAIN
PO BOX 250
HANKINSON, ND 58041
701-242-7292
1-800-541-0809
www.lsbbank.com

39 WILEY AVE.
PO BOX 190
LIDGERWOOD, ND 58053
701-538-4116