



## Board of Commissioners

**Kimberly Hagen**  
Grand Forks, ND

**Mark Rustad**  
Grand Forks, ND

**Cynthia Pic**  
Niagara, ND

**Bob Rost**  
Grand Forks, ND

**Terry Bjerke**  
Manvel, ND

Kimberly Hagen  
Chair  
Grand Forks County Board of Commissioners  
PO Box 5726  
Grand Forks, ND 58206-5726

February 3, 2025

RE: HB 1524 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-40.1 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the funding of regional planning councils; and to provide an appropriation

Dear Chairman Headland and members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee,

I am writing to provide Grand Forks County's support for House Bill 1542, which seeks to create and enact a new section to Chapter 54-40.1 of the North Dakota Century Code to support funding for regional planning councils, including the Red River Regional Council (RRRC).

As Chair of the Grand Forks County Board of Commissioners, I would like to highlight that Grand Forks County is a financial supporter of the RRRC. The Council serves approximately 90,000 North Dakotans across 39 communities, including the Grand Forks region, and plays an integral role in supporting business and community development throughout our area.

RRRC's programs have had a direct and lasting impact on local communities. For example, RRRC has supported small business development through its facilitation of funding opportunities, including grants and low-interest loans, that help local entrepreneurs start and expand businesses. Additionally, the Council has assisted communities with infrastructure projects that have bolstered economic activity and improved residents' quality of life—such as the development of new roads, water systems, and recreational facilities.

RRRC also works closely with local governments to foster long-term economic sustainability. For instance, their strategic planning initiatives help communities identify economic opportunities, attract investment, and plan for future growth. Through these efforts, RRRC has helped create jobs, enhance public services, and support vital community improvements across the region.



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By providing funding through House Bill 1542, Regional Councils in ND like RRRC will be able to continue offering these crucial programs, which directly support the continued development and success of small North Dakota communities. This investment in regional planning will have significant and positive economic impacts on rural North Dakota.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Should you require any further information or examples, I would be happy to provide additional details.

Respectfully,

Commissioner Kimberly Hagen