



New Rockford Area Betterment Corporation

117 1st St. S

New Rockford, ND 58356

(701) 947-2205

www.cityofnewrockford.com

Testimony of Amanda Hegland in support of HB 1524

To the House Finance & Taxation Committee

February 4, 2025

Representative Headland and members of the House Finance & Taxation Committee,

My name is Amanda Hegland, and I am the Executive Director of the New Rockford Area Betterment Corporation in New Rockford. Please accept my testimony in support of HB 1524. The New Rockford Area Betterment Corporation is located within Region III, a part of the North Central Planning Council.

At present, the NCPC, like all regional councils, faces significant challenges due to a lack of resources to fully assist the communities they serve. They have the expertise and the potential to secure funding that could transform the lives of many in our region, but they are limited by their current staffing capacity.

Our communities have limited resources and need help navigating and securing funding for vital projects. Imagine the impact they could have if they were able to dedicate more resources to this effort, using their expertise to help our communities obtain the grants and investments we so desperately need. If they could increase their capacity by adding more staff, they would be able to not only research available grants but also apply on behalf of the communities in our region. This would provide us with the support we need to secure the resources essential to our growth and success.

The NCPC, and Sandy Shively specifically, was instrumental in securing funding for our region for the first round of the RWIP grant, which helped New Rockford establish a community daycare center—something our community desperately needed. Unfortunately, the NCPC didn't have the capacity to continue helping us apply for the next rounds of funding.

As the Executive Director of the NRABC, I have relied on the NCPC for their expertise and guidance on state and regional issues for the last seven years. With additional staffing, their work would greatly benefit our organization. By investing in our regional councils, you are investing in the future of our communities, empowering them to thrive through increased access to critical funding and resources. The impact of this funding would be far-reaching, and the return on investment would be felt for years to come as we continue to build stronger, more resilient communities across Region III.

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In closing, I urge you to support this critical funding bill for regional councils statewide. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Amanda Hegland

Amanda Hegland
Executive Director
New Rockford Area Betterment Corporation
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