

**Ashley Berg**  
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February 2, 2025

**Re: Testimony in support of HB #1524**

To the House Finance and Taxation Committee,

My name is Ashley Berg. I am first a business owner in Rugby, ND. I also currently serve as Chair for the Souris Basin Planning Council, President of the Rugby Convention and Visitors Bureau and am active in several other organizations in my community. I am a strong advocate for rural communities specifically in bringing new people or businesses to us. However, there are typically many obstacles.


Often rural communities have infrastructure, building and large remodel needs – always with funding being the greatest need. Grant opportunities often come and go as they may not land in the right hands, or one may not be fully aware of the extent of the grant. People are enthusiastic to bring new experiences and programs to rural communities, which we all understand is a key to success in keeping the new generations in the area and coming back.

I strongly support this bill as I know the Regional Councils go above and beyond for its communities it supports. They believe in heightening the quality of life for all that live in our great state of North Dakota.

Having served on the Souris Basin Planning Council (SBPC) for five years and a volunteer board member I have had the opportunity to see and understand the impact and importance of a regional council. From day one, I was impressed by the amount of loans they have been able to service and continue to advocate for more. I often feel as I am not contributing enough, but frankly as a volunteer my time and ability are not enough, which only reiterates the need for the funding proposed.

Thank you for your time and I strongly encourage you to support this vital funding of House Bill #1524.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashley Berg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Ashley Berg