



**NORTH DAKOTA  
PLANNING ASSOCIATION**  
Serving North Dakota since 1973

**NDPA Board**  
Rachel Laqua – President  
Andrea Edwardson - Vice President  
John Van Dyke - Past President  
Daniel Nairn - Treasurer  
Will Hutchings - Secretary  
Maegin Elshaug – At Large  
David Sweeney – At Large

February 4, 2025  
Committee Hearing: HB 1524  
Finance and Taxation

Representative Headland and Committee Members:

The North Dakota Planning Association respectfully requests a recommendation of DO PASS on HB1524.

**Mission**

The mission statement describes NDPA's intentions and demonstrates how the organization is striving to fulfill its vision:

*We educate individuals, legislators, and planning professionals on the importance of planning and contemporary planning best practices, partner with those with a passion toward community-based efforts in planning and related fields, and advocate for the future success of communities through good policy and plan-making.*

**Vision**

The vision statement summarizes the role and influence the NDPA will have in North Dakota as it strives to achieve its goals.

*To be the primary partnership for planning-related information and activities within the State of North Dakota which connects and supports a growing planning profession that is well respected in the state and fosters an understanding amid the general public on the planning issues within the state.*

**Value**

The value statement reflects the values of the NDPA. The profession relies on the ethical principles espoused in the AICP Code of Ethics.

*Working together according to the AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct to effect good planning practice for all people of North Dakota.*

North Dakota Planning Association advocates for good planning rooted in contemporary best practices. We recognize that one barrier to good, well-rounded planning in the state is funding for planning efforts. As such, regional planning councils and the associated Department of Commerce Funding for planning is a huge step in the right direction,

allowing for regionally consolidated planning efforts backed by funds. Planning is often underfunded in our communities across the state, particularly our smaller communities, not because there is no interest, but because current needs trump long-range planning every time. Conversely, though, planning is essential to receiving funding for projects. By creating regional planning councils HB1524 would allow rural communities to move the needle in favor of positive development, whether that's through economic development initiatives, funding essential services such as groceries, or improving essential and aging infrastructure (roads, sewer, water).

Because the needs of our communities across the state are so diverse, a wide-spread fund such as this would be of much more assistance than more targeted funds, allowing for communities who know their needs best to advocate for and utilize those dollars in the most advantageous way to them.

Again, we respectfully request a recommendation of DO PASS on HB1524.

Thank you,

North Dakota Planning Association Board  
Rachel Laqua, President