



HOUSE BILL NO. 1524
HOUSE FINANCE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE
CRAIG HEDLAND, CHAIR
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1524

Chairman Hedland and members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee. I am Parrell Grossman, and it is my privilege to be the Legislative Director for the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association. I appear on behalf of the Association in support of House Bill 1524.

The Association advocates for more than 8,900 operations that raise soybeans in North Dakota. In 2024, North Dakota farmers planted 6.6 million acres of soybeans, producing over 245 million bushels of soybeans in North Dakota.

The Association is a strong supporter of the eight regional planning councils and the unique work and role they perform for rural North Dakota. This proposed funding is absolutely critical to the mission and operation of each of these councils, and the work they do is vital to rural North Dakota across the state. These councils leverage a small amount of funds to assist communities, townships, and counties with many projects. These smaller jurisdictions or political subdivisions simply don't have the staff, expertise, or financial resources to fulfill the ever-increasing and more challenging needs of rural North Dakota.

In addition to the funding secured, the additional funds that are leveraged, and the jobs created or retained, The Association particularly recognizes their important roles in supporting agriculture.

These councils can provide services to write grants or search for other funding sources. They are an excellent resource for locating and facilitating resources to assist with or address statutory or regulatory matters. One example would include working with local zoning to allow rural economic development such as animal agriculture to develop in townships and counties. With appropriate resources, these regional planning councils can provide the tools and expertise to navigate the requirements of programs to support local road improvements and other infrastructure needs.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, for these reasons, and the others already stated, the Association respectfully asks the House Finance and Taxation Committee to give House Bill 1524 a “Do Pass” recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration and I would be pleased to try and answer any questions.