



**In Favor of HB 1524**  
**House Finance and Taxation**  
**February 4, 2025**

Chairman Headland and Committee members:

For the record, my name is Lesley Icenogle. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the North Dakota Corn Growers Association (NDCGA) in favor of House Bill 1524.

HB 1524 builds rural capacity to address policy issues that matter to the North Dakota Corn Growers, including business development, zoning and land use planning, workforce development, and infrastructure planning. The bill requires biennial work plans with itemized budgets and reporting metrics to ensure accountability.

In addition, the bill helps level the playing field for smaller communities. 70% of rural North Dakotans live in small towns with less than 1,000 people. HB 1524 will give these communities access to rural development staff and help them compete for additional state and federal funds.

NDCGA urges a Do Pass recommendation on HB 1524 to support rural communities through the regional councils. Thank you for your consideration.