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ND House Taxation and Finance Committee

RE: Support for HB 1524

Chairman Headland and Committee members;

I farm and ranch at Leeds, ND which is a town of around 400 people. We have a bank, an elevator which also owns the bulk oil and local Cenex (which is also our grocery store now) and our k-12 school is still operating. We have limited businesses, but need to keep what we have.

I serve on the Leeds Economic Development Committee, which is made up of volunteers in the Leeds area – we do not have a paid employee. We saw a need for a larger daycare than the few in-home ones that were around the area to keep our few businesses going and to attract young teachers and families to our town.

We reached out to North Central Planning Council (Region 3 Planning Council) in Devils Lake to help us and I don't think we could have done it without them. We had received a USDA Rural Development grant to bring in a modular home to be used for the daycare building, but none of us had any experience writing grants. Our funds were limited, and all were needed for the share we had to pay for the building. We appreciated having the support and expertise from North Central Planning on obtaining the grant.

I can see a great benefit in providing more staff to these regional councils in order to help more of these rural communities like Leeds. I ask for a Do-Pass recommendation from this committee.

Sincerely,

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