

Good afternoon Chairman Headland, Vice Chairman Hagert, and Committee members –

Thank you for your time and the allowance of a one hour hearing yesterday for HB 1524 – funding to support rural and regional development capacity via the Regional Council network. This network was established by the state 50 years ago yet failed to include a funding mechanism.

As we see such terrific momentum growing across the state, we would like to weave our small towns and rural regions into this transformation as well as strengthen the services we are able to provide through increased staff capacity.

As requested during the hearing yesterday, please find attached a 2025 Budget Summary from each of the regional councils.

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