

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Arik Spencer, and I am the President and CEO of the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is North Dakota's largest statewide business advocacy organization, with membership represented by small and large businesses, local chambers, and trade and industry associations across the state. We stand in **support** of House Bill 1575.

Biennially, our board of directors reviews GNDC's member-driven policy statements. HB 1575 is one of the few property tax bills that conform to these policy statements by ensuring an equitable, competitive, and consistent tax structure that fosters long-term revenue stability and provides certainty to businesses for sustained growth and investment.

HB 1575 accomplishes this by offering broad property relief, which is fair given businesses in ND pay approximately 1/3 of the property tax burden that funds the operational costs of political subdivisions. Further, long-term stability is achieved by ensuring most property taxpayers pay some level of property tax, which is important because property tax increases and bond issues will not be born solely by the business community in future years, an issue that has made business community investments in other states less attractive. Please note that we strongly believe that all property tax types should have some tax burden regardless of the type of property tax bill passed.

Finally, GNDC supports a cap on local spending, which we think is wise given the large increase in state funding to political subdivisions, which is proposed to provide the property tax relief offered by this bill.

We hope you give thoughtful consideration to HB 1575, and I will stand for questions.