



THE CHAMBER
FARGO MOORHEAD WEST FARGO

Letter in Opposition – HB 1315

Friday, January 24th, 2025

Chairman Schauer and members of the House Government and Veteran's Affairs Committee,

My name is Cale Dunwoody, and I have the distinct pleasure of serving as the Vice President of Public Policy for the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce (FMWF Chamber). On behalf of our over 1,700 members, I respectfully offer testimony in opposition to House Bill 1315.

At the FMWF Chamber, our mission is to protect and promote business, inspire individuals, cultivate communities, and influence action. The North Dakota National Guard is a tremendous asset to our state and nation. Our local units are nationally renowned for their leadership, excellence, and execution of critical missions at local, national, and global levels. Whether responding to floods in the Red River Valley, flying F-16s over our nation's capital, supporting efforts against COVID-19, or providing assistance at our southern border, the North Dakota National Guard is always ready to respond to the call of duty, no matter the challenge.

The North Dakota Air National Guard's 119th Wing, located in Fargo, exemplifies this leadership and excellence. It is one of twelve Air National Guard Wings that operate the MQ-9 aircraft, and is responsible for precision attack and reconnaissance, kinetic, and non-kinetic target intelligence production, and expeditionary support capabilities for the nation and state. The North Dakota National Guard plays a crucial role in our nation's defense, and fostering an environment that enhances military excellence is essential.

Considering the vital importance of our local units, such the 119th Wing, we strongly oppose HB 1315 as it could hinder the 119th Wing's ability to execute critical federal missions and potentially reduce federal investment in vital military infrastructure. As this 68th Legislative Assembly considers this legislation, we respectfully urge this committee to swiftly recommend a DO NOT PASS for HB 1315 to preserve our states military excellence and support national security.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Cale Dunwoody
Vice President of Public Policy
Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce