



House Industry, Business and Labor

HB1141

January 27, 2025

Representative Jonathan Warrey, Chair

**Summary of Points:**

- The City of Bismarck **opposes** the prohibition of organizational memberships.
- **Concerns:** Many municipal governments throughout North Dakota rely on the professional support, guidance, and resources of organizations whose missions are to provide services and educational opportunities.

**Testimony:**

Chairman Warrey and Members of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee:

On behalf of the City of Bismarck, I am Jason Tomanek, City Administrator and today I offer oppositional testimony to HB1141.

**The City of Bismarck has specific concerns with the proposed language in paragraph two which would prohibit a municipal government entity from partnering with professional organizations who provide critical resources and educational opportunities throughout North Dakota.**

The City of Bismarck proudly supports the North Dakota League of Cities, the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber EDC, the Downtown Bismarck Community Foundation, the Bismarck-Mandan Convention & Visitors Bureau, the American Public Works Association, and other local and national organizations that offer a variety of professional development and enrichment services to help guide the City of Bismarck, train our staff, and improve the delivery of services to the residents and businesses in our community.

The City of Bismarck has invested in key memberships with numerous benefits and positive outcomes that demonstrate a return on these decisions. The City of Bismarck has partnered with the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber EDC and the Downtown Bismarck Community Foundation (Downtowners) to effectively provide tremendous support of our economic development activities throughout the community. Organizations like the North Dakota League of Cities and local Chambers of Commerce play critical roles in assisting cities, counties, park districts, and school districts for the benefit of the entire community.

I urge a **Do Not Pass** action on this bill and continue to allow cities, counties, townships, school districts, park districts, and other municipal government entities to invest in these important partnerships and resources.

Respectfully,

Jason Tomanek, Administrator  
City of Bismarck

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