



1 HB 1141 – Strong Opposition

2 Members of the House Industry Business and Labor Committee

3 We are writing to express our strong opposition to House Bill 1141, which seeks to amend
4 section 16.1-10-02 of the North Dakota Century Code regarding the use of public services or
5 property for political purposes.

6 The overwhelming majority of our legislators have recognized and expressed gratitude for the
7 efforts of the 100+ organizations that united to oppose Measure 4. These organizations played a
8 critical role in ensuring that the management and allocation of revenue remained within the
9 legislative process, allowing for this esteemed body to devise responsible and strategic plans for
10 our state’s future. This bill threatens to dismantle the very organizations that stood in unwavering
11 support of the legislature and our shared commitment to prudent governance.

12 It is important to recognize that many of the organizations that supported this legislative body are
13 deeply intertwined with our communities. They serve our citizens through various mechanisms,
14 whether via membership through employment contracts, professional development programs,
15 business representation needs, or services funded in part by state dollars. HB 1141 would have a
16 far-reaching and detrimental impact on these organizations, jeopardizing their ability to serve
17 their members and communities effectively.

18 By prohibiting state agencies, departments, and political subdivisions from using public funds to
19 be a member of, contribute to, or purchase goods or services from organizations that have taken a
20 position on candidates or ballot measures within the past ten years, HB 1141 introduces an
21 unreasonably restrictive and punitive measure. This approach effectively punishes organizations
22 for their advocacy and support of legislative processes, stifling the essential dialogue and
23 collaboration that strengthens our state’s democratic institutions.

24 We urge you to consider the profound consequences this bill would impose on organizations that
25 have been steadfast allies in maintaining fiscal responsibility and upholding the legislative
26 process. These organizations are invaluable partners in ensuring informed decision-making,
27 providing professional development, and advocating for the best interests of our citizens. HB
28 1141, if enacted, would undermine their ability to continue their critical work and weaken the
29 very fabric of our collective efforts to serve the people of North Dakota.

30 In closing, we respectfully request that you oppose HB 1141 and instead focus on fostering
31 partnerships that empower, rather than dismantle, the institutions that have stood by the
32 legislature in pursuit of a better future for all North Dakotans.