



THE CHAMBER
FARGO MOORHEAD WEST FARGO

Letter of Opposition – HB 1141

Monday, January 27, 2025

Chairman Warrey and members of the House Industry, Business, and Labor Committee,

For the record, 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 1141.

At the FMWF Chamber, our mission is to protect and promote business, inspire individuals, cultivate communities, and influence action. This legislation unjustly limits the ability of organizations, like Chambers of Commerce and trade associations, across North Dakota to serve their membership and community. These essential organizations are uniquely positioned to serve as a collective voice for their area businesses, communities, and residents – establishing and offering programs to address challenges and enhance opportunity.

This legislation places necessary funding for these organizations in jeopardy and reduces their ability work to address the unique needs of their community. For example, the FMWF Chamber strategically utilizes federal, state, and local funding to establish community initiatives that address our region's critical workforce challenges. These public dollars are often matched by private investments to support this critical work. Our workforce and talent initiatives strengthen the FMWF region's workforce ecosystem by activating community partners to engage in innovative approaches, such as recruitment, acclimation, development, retention. The use of these public dollars is dedicated to these initiatives and is closely monitored by federal, state, and local government agencies through thorough application processes, frequent reporting requirements, and meticulous oversight.

While the FMWF Chamber monitors election activities and takes strategic actions, such as publicly supporting and opposing measures that appear on state and local ballots, to represent the interests of the business community – we DO NOT use public dollars to support these election engagements. Additionally, The FMWF Chamber does not endorse candidates for public office nor contributes to individual candidates' campaigns. Furthermore, the election actions of the FMWF are solely supported by private investment and sponsorship from our private, local businesses.

If passed, this bill could dramatically impact the vital work of community organizations across the state and prohibit their ability to apply for state and local granting opportunities or partner with public entities, to develop and expand community initiatives. The FMWF Chamber strongly opposes House Bill 1141 and would urge this committee to give this bill a DO NOT PASS recommendation.

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