

TESTIMONY OF JACKIE HUBER
PRESIDENT, NORTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD FOUNDATION
SEPTEMBER 2, 2026

Senate Bill 2407 – Special Session

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. For the record, I am Jackie Huber, President of the North Dakota National Guard Foundation.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear today and, most importantly, for the opportunity to work with the Legislature to find a responsible path forward for the North Dakota Military Gallery.

The Foundation has been proud to be one partner in a much larger effort involving the Governor's Office, Legislature, State Historical Society, Office of the Adjutant General, PACE, and many private donors and businesses.

Our responsibility has been to help secure the private funding necessary to complete this project. We take that responsibility seriously.

Economic uncertainty and the loss of a significant pledge have slowed the pace of additional fundraising. The pause in construction is a timing challenge, not a lack of support for the project or a question of its viability.

We support the proposed line of credit because it provides a temporary bridge while private fundraising continues. It protects the substantial investment already made and helps avoid additional costs of a long-term pause. This temporary financing will be repaid through future private fundraising.

We also recognize the responsibility that comes with state dollars. The Foundation supports the inclusion of the legislative branch in the oversight of the naming rights process, and we would like a chance to discuss amendments to clarify the legislative intent of the mechanism described in section 2.

Most importantly, we continue to believe in the gallery mission: Honor. Educate. Inspire.

To honor generations of North Dakotans who served. To educate future generations about their sacrifice. And to inspire the next generation to understand the value of service.

As we approach the September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance, we are reminded that how a nation recognizes its military reflects its values, political priorities, and historical memory. This recognition goes beyond simple gratitude; it shapes national identity and mirrors the state's relationship with its citizens.

This past July we celebrated our nation's 250th birthday, it was an important reminder for us, as a Nation, to reflect on the service of those who fought for our independence. As well as to recognize as a State and Nation, the men and women who serve in the U.S. military—whose contributions gives us the freedom we enjoy today. Unlike one day on a calendar, the North Dakota Military Gallery will be a daily reminder of the sacrifices of our service members and their families for generations to come. Our North Dakota military history and heritage will be remembered, preserved, and shared for many years due to the public and private support for this project.

The Foundation remains committed to completing the private fundraising campaign and doing our part to finish this project.

We are grateful for the Legislature's partnership and respectfully ask for your support.

Thank you.