

## Testimony- House Bill 1577

Chairman Porter, Members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Matt Voltz, and I am the Finance Director for the City of Horace. I am here to express our strong support for House Bill 1577, which has been needed within the State of ND for many years. The state does an incredible job with low interest loan programs for water and wastewater.

Horace is experiencing rapid growth, and with that comes the critical need to develop and upgrade our wastewater infrastructure to meet current and future demands. Many of you are aware of the *Flush to Fargo* project, which was spearheaded by our former Mayor, Kory Peterson. We are thankful for the different avenues of funding we were able to procure for that project, and with the hopeful passing of HB1577, we'll be able to complete it in cooperation with the City of Fargo.

This project is just one critical example of the significant investments required to maintain and expand wastewater infrastructure for cities of all sizes. However, the financial burden of such projects is substantial for a city of our size. Grant programs reduce the dependency on special assessments as a funding mechanism, and as we all know, taxes are all the talk right now. As a finance director, I don't enjoy assessing out the project costs, especially with today's infrastructure prices (and speaking for Horace, the governing bodies certainly don't enjoy certifying them). As a homeowner, I don't enjoy receiving assessments. Grant programs like these help the state and local jurisdictions invest back into our communities while keeping our residents, taxpayers, and businesses front of mind.

We ask the state to keep this program, and any similar programs, as simple of a process as possible for all eligible entities to easily seek out grant funds to help their communities thrive.

In conclusion, I urge you to support House Bill 1577, as it is instrumental in helping cities like Horace build the necessary infrastructure to support our growing populations while safeguarding public health and the environment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Matt Voltz

Finance Director

City of Horace