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**HOUSE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS**  
**REPRESENTATIVE DONALD LONGMUIR, CHAIRMAN**

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED BY**  
**MICHAEL HOWE, SECRETARY OF STATE**

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Chairman Longmuir and members of the Committee, I am in full support of HB 1178. Participating in elections is a responsibility every eligible voter of the United States should carry. In the June 2024 Primary Election we only had 20% of eligible North Dakotans participate. In the 2024 November General Election we had 63% of eligible North Dakotans participate.

I applaud the bill sponsor and her cosponsors for emphasizing the importance for our newest eligible voters that voting is a civic duty to choose our leaders for our families, friends, and neighbors. My hope is that first time voters keep coming back to participate in every election- School, City, County, Statewide, and Federal. They are all equally important. I urge a Do Pass recommendation for HB 1178.