



Walsh County Sheriff's Office

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January 21, 2025

Chairperson Longmuir and members of the Political Subdivisions Committee,

Re: Support for HB1213 – A jail improvement revolving loan fund.

My name is Captain Adam S. Trahan, Chief Corrections Officer for Walsh County Sheriff's Office. I have worked at the Walsh County Correctional Center for almost 5 years now overseeing the daily operations of the facility. I am writing this to express my strong support for HB1213.

Our building was opened for use in November 1975. The building has been operating twenty-four hours for the last fifty years. At the facility, we have had to deal with plumbing issues. The pipes that run through the facility are rusting and, in some areas, no longer there. Due to them being placed in concrete we would have to remove the floor to be able to work on the pipes. Other issues like having to replace outdated sinks and toilets become a problem because the parts are no longer available. Most parts needed to fix the facility are hard to find.

Some of you may be unaware that the State of North Dakota is facing an overcrowding problem. Walsh County's primary issue we have is housing inmates. We have a capacity for 16 inmates. We must constantly try to find housing for females that are arrested in the county which is an ongoing struggle. Sometimes we don't even have enough space for our male inmates. Our overflow of inmates are placed in other facilities in the state. Unfortunately, the other facilities in the state are also struggling to house their own inmates and looking for space just like we are.

Our building has served the County of Walsh for over fifty years but we would like to build a new facility that would serve our county for over another fifty years. HB1213 would help Walsh County achieve this goal and better serve the community.

I want to strongly urge the committee to support HB1213 and recommend its passage. Let North Dakota show the rest of the country that we are dedicated to helping our residents of this state. This bill is an essential step toward improving outcomes for our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me at atraham@nd.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Adam S. Trahan
Chief Corrections Officer