

Chairman Longmuir and members of the House Political Subs Committee,

My name is Kathy Frelich, and I have the honor of representing District 15 which includes Devils Lake and encompasses the area north to the Canadian border.

House Bill 1213 is a Bill to allow jails to access low interest loans for jail improvements. Section 1 describes how a committee is formed to determine the loan recipients. The Committee consists of members of both the House and Senate, the Association of Counties, the Sheriff's Association, the Chiefs of Police Association, and one member from DOCR. Section 2 indicates how money is loaned out from the Bank of North Dakota to the loan recipients and describes the criteria for the application process including the prioritization of inmate occupancy, age of existing structures, and community support. Approved loan recipients could receive up to \$40 million, which is the maximum loan amount. The term of the loan is 30 years or less, and the interest rate may not exceed 2%. The last subsection allows for an annual audit of the fund. Section 3 indicates the total appropriation which is \$200 million from the Strategic Investment and Improvement fund

Again, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I know this is a big ask, but there is also a big need. I hope you will agree and give this Bill proposal serious consideration.

I know you will hear more testimony after me, but I will stand for questions.

Kathy Frelich

District 15