



FAIRVIEW CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Old Fairview • Memorial Gardens • Mausoleum

January 29, 2025

Re: SUPPORT for HB1219

Representative Longmuir and Members of the Political Subdivision Committee:

My name is Simone Sandberg. I am a Board Member and Finance Chair of Fairview Cemetery Association. Fairview Cemetery is a non-denominational, perpetual care cemetery located in Wahpeton, North Dakota. Oversight of the cemetery is provided by an eight-member volunteer Board of Directors along with a parttime manager/secretary/treasurer who is paid a minimal stipend and volunteers numerous hours. Other work at the cemetery is done by volunteers and one individual who spends many paid and volunteer hours mowing/trimming/caretaking.

Being non-denominational, the cemetery is not church supported and must rely on services provided relating to burials, lot and marker sales, and donations to cover cemetery expenses. As a 501 (c) 13 entity, we do not qualify for grants that become available for 501 (c) 3 entities. We continually search for sources of income to cover expenses that increase yearly. In challenging economic times, donations are limited and cemeteries are often overlooked.

Under NDCC 23-21.1-03, as a perpetual care cemetery, we are required to maintain a perpetual care fund. To this fund, we annually deposit 20% of our lot sales. This amounts to as much as \$4,500.00 a year. In some years, this represents nearly 10% of our expenses. We recognize the deposit requirement but due to the increasing financial needs to maintain the cemetery on an ongoing basis we are asking that the 20% deposit amount be reduced to 10%.

Thank you for your time and I urge a DO PASS recommendation on HB1219.

Simone Sandberg

Finance Chair Fairview Cemetery Board