

Testimony of Jim Murphy, Executive Director, Traill County EDC in support of SB 2225

House of Representatives – Political Subdivisions Committee

March 11, 2025

My name is Jim Murphy, and I am the Executive Director of Traill County Economic Development Commission. We serve the citizens and businesses to help identify and cultivate economic prosperity within Traill County and at the same time, throughout the region.

Many of the businesses in Hillsboro, Mayville and other Traill County cities are growing and have need for increased workforce. This growth necessitates additional capacity for workforce. Meeting that need can be challenging given the distances builders must send construction materials and crews to build in our markets.

Geographically, Traill County is located between Cass County and Grand Forks County – two of the economic centers of the state. Many Traill County denizens live and work within the county, of course. However, many work in Grand Forks and Fargo as well, **supporting the entire region's economy.** Regardless of their work life, residents enjoy the location and the small-town atmosphere of Traill Counties' cities, and we want to make sure there are options for this lifestyle. To do that, we need to be able to build more multi-family and single-family housing, in our cities. And we need a little help to do so.

It is with that in mind that I am in support of SB 2225. The stimulus provided by this public/private partnership is exactly what many of the developers and builders can use to reduce the added expenditure of sending crews and materials 40 miles. The structure of awards demonstrated in SB 2225 means that municipality, state and businesses will all be invested in the building toward the future of these cities. **When I think of a house or apartment building built with this program having an effective life of 50 or 60 (or more) years, the investment will pay off for decades for these cities and the State of ND.**

I am encouraging a yes vote on SB 2225 to help us continue to grow our workforce and businesses for many years to come and thank you for taking a few minutes to read this.

Sincerely,



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