



**NORTH DAKOTA
PLANNING ASSOCIATION**
Serving North Dakota since 1973

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March 13, 2025

Committee Hearing: **SB2225**

House Political Subdivisions

Chairman Longmuir and Committee Members,

The North Dakota Planning Association respectfully requests a PASS recommendation on Senate Bill 2225.

Our organization and its members are encouraged by the legislature's recognition of the housing issue and its widespread pressures; from workforce, materials, financing and everything in between. Our economic growth is dampened by our housing shortages, and based on data presented through the Housing Initiative committee, we feel North Dakota has significant potential to be an 'affordable' place for folks to live, if we can increase and better meet housing demands.

NDPA will occasionally receive requests from our more remote, smaller communities seeking planning professional advice as community planning is often not in the budget for them. We understand those financial limitations often carry through into other sectors for those communities and as such, we are concerned that our smaller localities will struggle to meet the 1 for 1 funding match the current bill proposes. We'd hope to see that requirement lessened for those under 1,000 in population, to see more localities be able to participate in this much needed opportunity.

Passage of SB2225 is a step in the right direction of collaboration between state agencies and political subdivisions to meet this critical need and we look forward to seeing the tangible results this funding opportunity would provide.

Thank you,

North Dakota Planning Association Board
Rachel Laqua, President