



ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2390
HOUSE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS COMMITTEE
DONALD W. LONGMUIR, CHAIR
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 2390
MARCH 13, 2025

Chairman Longmuir and members of the House Political Subdivisions Committee. I am Parrell Grossman, and it is my privilege to be the Legislative Director for the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association. I appear on behalf of the Association in support of Engrossed Senate Bill 2390, with amendments.

The Association advocates for more than 8,900 operations that raise soybeans in North Dakota. In 2024, North Dakota farmers planted 6.6 million acres of soybeans, producing over 245 million bushels of soybeans in North Dakota.

This legislation is hugely important for all of rural North Dakota and its residents. The grant funding provided in Section 3 of the engrossed bill for projects that will address a critical need in the areas of art and culture, community and economic development, education, health and wellness, *et cetera* will be hugely beneficial to quality of life in rural North Dakota.

The Association likes the governance in Section 2 of the Bill. The Association has significant confidence in the membership of this committee, and maintains this committee will exercise good judgment, be transparent, and hold all grantees accountable.

For example, regional planning councils will have a significant role in this program. The Association is a strong supporter of the eight regional planning councils. They have an established track record and are effective for rural North Dakota in so many projects and aspects. and they perform unique work and serve an important and effective role for rural North Dakota. These councils leverage a small amount of funds to assist communities, townships, and counties with many projects. They will continue to do so with these funds for the specified and approved purposes provided in this legislation.

Further, the Association believes that in awarding and supervising these grants for the authorized purposes, the Committee will improve and strengthen these communities in a manner that will result in supporting and strengthening agriculture. These rural communities have a symbiotic relationship with farmers, ranchers and their families.

There have been suggestions of combining the best parts of each of Senate Bill Nos. 2097 and 2390. We are aware that there may be efforts to combine the Bills and we have not had the opportunity to learn more. Certainly, we are open to that possibility and process.

In the meantime, the Association respectfully asks this Committee to approve this legislation for the reasons explained and amend it to the original request of \$30 million. Or, at a minimum, an amount much higher than the \$5 million approved by the Senate. That sum will be spread too thin to accomplish the important objectives of this Bill, or the other Bill, 2097.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, for these reasons, the Association respectfully asks the House Political Subdivisions Committee to give Engrossed Senate Bill 2390 a “Do Pass” recommendation with amendments.

Thank you for your consideration and I will try and answer any questions.

