



Letter of Support – SB 2006

Monday, January 13th, 2025

Chairman Sorvaag and Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee - Education and Environment Division,

For the record, my name is Cale Dunwoody, and I have the distinct pleasure of serving as the Vice President of Public Policy for the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce (FMWF Chamber). On behalf of our over 1,700 members, I respectfully offer testimony in support of Senate Bill 2006 and encourage the inclusion of \$120 Million in funding to support critical projects at airports located in Dickison, Fargo, and Grand Forks.

At the FMWF Chamber, our mission is to protect and promote business, inspire individuals, cultivate communities, and influence action. Air travel is a vital mode of transportation that underpins the demographic growth and economic prosperity of North Dakota. This requested state funding, combined with federal and local funds, will provide adequate resources to complete these transformative airport projects across our state. These projects are essential for enhancing safety, increasing operational efficiencies, expanding air service capabilities, and modernizing aging facilities and infrastructure to meet the growing demand for air travel.

Fargo's Hector International Airport (FAR) has experienced unprecedented growth in both passenger and cargo traffic. Between 2009 and 2019, FAR saw a remarkable growth of nearly 35% and has recovered from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the past year, FAR has continued to set all-time records for enplanements and is projected to serve over 750,000 passengers by 2044. Upon completion, FAR facility will have the capacity to effectively meet regional travel demands, positioning our community as a regional leader in air service. A newly renovated and expanded airport will elevate our region's global competitiveness and enhance access to critical transportation services, influencing local businesses and boosting tourism.

As the 69th Legislative Assembly considers Senate Bill 2006, we encourage the inclusion of essential funding for these transformative projects to preserve the vitality of our airports and strengthen North Dakota's global competitiveness.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Cale Dunwoody
Vice President of Public Policy
Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce